

## Way cleared for Thatcher to become Countess of Finchley



Mrs Thatcher: made clear her desire to have chance to speak in the Lords

THE way has been cleared for Margaret Thatcher to be offered an hereditary earldom after the general election and to take a seat in the Lords as a countess.

After taking soundings in the Lords, government sources confirmed to *The Times* yesterday that the convention of offering an earldom to a retiring prime minister would continue. Mrs Thatcher has told former colleagues in government that she intends to take up the honour rather than accept a life peerage, which would make her a baroness in the Lords.

Britain's first woman prime minister would be made a countess, the female equivalent of an earl, and her son, Mark Thatcher, would inherit the earldom and a seat in the Lords upon her death. Mr Thatcher could also, during his mother's lifetime, use as a courtesy title a subsidiary title created with the earldom. He is also heir to the baronetcy conferred on Sir Denis Thatcher.

The title chosen by Mrs Thatcher would need the approval of Garter King of Arms, Sir Colin Cole. Lords sources would be made a countess, the female equivalent of an earl, and her son, Mark Thatcher, would inherit the earldom and a seat in the Lords upon her death. Mr Thatcher could also, during his mother's lifetime, use as a courtesy title a subsidiary title created with the earldom. He is also heir to the baronetcy conferred on Sir Denis Thatcher.

*The award of earldoms to former prime ministers should give Mrs Thatcher a new platform and son Mark a courtesy title, reports Sheila Gann*

Finchley, the constituency she has represented in the Commons for 32 years, instead of taking the name of her home town of Grantham. Alternatively, she could choose Countess Thatcher.

When announcing her decision not to stand for the Commons at the next election, Mrs Thatcher made clear that she wanted to go to the Lords, where she can continue to speak out on world affairs.

Although some elderly Tory peers, such as Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, dismiss the

idea of conferring hereditary titles automatically on retiring prime ministers, Lords sources insist that the convention has existed since Atlee received an earldom in 1955.

John Major is understood to have no objection to conferring the title on his predecessor, treating it as a matter for Mrs Thatcher. The Queen will need to sanction the ennoblement, probably in the prime minister's resignation honours list after the election.

Not all former prime ministers have become hereditary peers since Atlee's earldom. Sir Winston Churchill refused a peerage, but Sir Anthony Eden became Earl of Avon. Harold Macmillan initially declined a peerage, but later accepted the title of Earl of Stockton.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home renounced the earldom of Home to become an MP, becoming ineligible to receive another hereditary peerage. After his retirement, he took a life peerage as Lord Home of the Hirsel. His heirs can revive the earldom after his death.

Harold Wilson and James Callaghan became only life peers, and Edward Heath remains in the Commons.

Mrs Thatcher, although often at odds with the Lords during 11 years in Downing Street, could use the upper house as a convenient platform for an elder statesman.



Mark Thatcher: would get a courtesy title if his mother is made a countess

## Plea for help as Yugoslav guns shell Dubrovnik

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAGREB

YUGOSLAV forces yesterday attacked the historic Adriatic port of Dubrovnik from land, air and sea in an offensive across Croatia that left dozens dead.

Dubrovnik was last night cut off and its people appealed for international help to protect its treasures. Wooden shields were hastily built to protect the heart of the city, but grenades hit churches, hotels, an airport, a marina and the Adriatic highway.

Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, called on

President Bush and Lord Carrington, chairman of the European Community's peace conference, to act to prevent an all-out assault by the Serb-dominated federal army. He also promised to lift the blockade of Yugoslav army barracks if the attacks ceased.

Mr Tudjman's plea came in response to an Italian plea for Croatia to make an immediate gesture to stop the bloodshed that has made a mockery of the ceasefire agreed on September 22. "I confirm that the Croats are ready to lift the siege of the barracks the moment that attacks by sea, air and land cease," he said, during a visit to Rome. There were fears in diplomatic circles, however, that Mr Tudjman would not be able to restrain ultra-nationalist fighters involved in some of the blockades.

The president's mission to Rome took place against some of the worst military destruction seen in Europe since the second world war as federal army units advanced to relieve beleaguered garrisons, destroying whole villages in their path. Dozens of people were reported killed around Dubrovnik, the eastern town of Osijek and Vukovar, and the central town of Nova Gradska, although each side gave conflicting tolls. Zagreb Radio claimed that two Yugoslav warplanes had been shot down.

The army and navy pounded the Dubrovnik region with mortars and artillery for a second day, and a team of EC peace monitors were among those who fled the shelling. Federal forces cut off water and electricity, knocked out communications and sealed roads to the city. The Belgrade news agency Tanjug reported

that the federal forces had taken the village of Smano 12 miles to the north.

In the face of such violence, Mr Tudjman wrote to President Bush saying the Yugoslav army was "undertaking preparations for a full-scale attack on the republic of Croatia". His letter said: "I beseech you, Mr President, to undertake immediate steps in order to prevent this imminent catastrophe. In addition to diplomatic intervention, I ask that you send military monitoring missions to Croatia immediately to oversee the development of events."

Mr Tudjman also wrote to Lord Carrington, whose peace conference is still due to reconvene tomorrow in spite of the growing violence, warning: "Croatia is threatened by an all-out mobilisation in Serbia and an imminent invasion of the Yugoslav army on a very broad scale. It will result not only in a terrible loss of human life but may also further endanger some of the most precious parts of the world's cultural heritage."

Peter Luznik, president of the newly-formed St Vlaho Fund for the Preservation of Dubrovnik, appealed for weapons and volunteers. He called on statesmen, artists and tourists from around the world to "join us patriots of Croatia and Dubrovnik, which Bernard Shaw described as paradise on earth and which is now turned into hell, to save our beloved city from Serbian barbarians."

"We have not succumbed to much stronger enemies so we have no intention of surrendering to Byzantine yokes."

War machine, page 12  
Leading article, page 17



City under siege: Dubrovnik old town and harbour



Confronting injustice: Mr Hurd and his aides leaving the Grosvenor hotel yesterday after his statement to the enquiry

## Sleeping tablet Halcion banned

THE world's leading brand of sleeping pill was banned in Britain yesterday as an investigation began into reports that it causes memory loss and depression.

The drug, sold under the brand name, Halcion, is prescribed by doctors one and a half million times each year.

William Asscher, chairman of the Committee on the Safety of Medicines, is writing to all doctors, dentists and pharmacists to inform them of the withdrawal of Halcion and similar medicines. The committee is to investigate medical reports that triazolam, the drug contained in Halcion, causes significant harmful side-effects. "It is now considered with triazolam outweigh the benefits," the health department said in a statement.

Halcion was first marketed in 1977 and is used in 90 countries. Upjohn, the US manufacturer of the drug, announced an immediate appeal against the ban saying that it was not warranted by medical evidence.

Patients have been advised not to stop using the drug totally, in case doing so prompts severe side-effects, but to consult their GPs for advice.

Side-effects fear, page 8

## Hurd backs tribunal to deal with unfair verdicts

By FRANCES GIBBS AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

DOUGLAS Hurd yesterday came out in clear support of creating a new independent tribunal to take over from home secretaries the task of handling miscarriages of justice and referring cases to the Court of Appeal.

The former home secretary told an enquiry conducted by Sir John May that in the Maguire case and "in other cases" the present system had turned out to be inadequate for the purposes of justice.

"I myself have thought increasingly for two years that there is a strong case for having a standing body outside the legal profession which has investigative facilities and has the right to refer cases direct to the Court of Appeal rather than having to go back to the home secretary."

In January 1987 Mr Hurd refused to refer either the Guildford or Maguire cases to the Court of Appeal. But the convictions of the Maguires, one of whom died while serving his sentence, were quashed in June after Sir John's interim report last year condemned the forensic evidence as fatally flawed.

Mr Hurd said home secretary's powers came under "fairly continuous pressure in case after case" to use the power they had "to reopen arguments already before the courts because distinguished and articulate people believe those arguments to be wrong".

He added: "Personally I would now favour the taking away from the home secretary this particular exercise. It is something which is better to be done outside the realms of a government department."

Mr Hurd's comments, to the May enquiry that he set up as home secretary to investigate the convictions of the Guildford Four and Maguire Seven, were made in a personal capacity. But they will undoubtedly be taken as the first clear public indication of the reforms the government accepts are needed in the wake of a series of miscarriages of justice and referral back of cases to the Court of Appeal.

Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour party, which yesterday announced its own package of reforms for law and order including a new independent tribunal to handle miscarriages of justice, hailed Mr Hurd's comment as brave and courageous.

Alistair Logan, solicitor for the Maguires, said: "It is certainly an extremely important statement for someone in Mr Hurd's position. What it does is advance the argument from talking about whether there should be change to what that change should be."

The timing of the remarks, too, was being taken as evidence of a more receptive, mood among ministers and a greater readiness to acknowledge the case for change. Two days ago, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, told the Bar conference that there was a need to look at the balance between the adversarial and inquisitorial elements in the criminal justice system.

Continued on page 22, col 4

## Militant to back MPs at election

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party is facing a Militant-backed challenge at the general election from the two MPs who have been suspended for their alleged links with the Trotskyist sect.

David Nellist, MP for Coventry Southeast, and Terry Fields, MP for Liverpool Broadgreen, are reliably expected by close associates to stand at the election as independent candidates against the official Labour choices if, as expected, they are expelled.

The *Times* has learnt that the Militant high command has already discussed the possibility of supporting Mr Fields and Mr Nellist at a general election.

There are differences within the group over the preference of a majority of its leadership for abandoning its policy of entryism and coming out into the open. But there is agreement over supporting challenges by Mr Fields and Mr Nellist. The disclosure will be seen by Labour leaders as vindicating their action against the MPs.

The majority of Mr Nellist's Coventry party, including non-Militants, are thought likely to support him. Labour already faces a tough challenge at Broadgreen from the Liberal Democrats and would be concerned at the prospect of any split in its vote.

Labour conference, page 7  
Conference sketch, page 22

### TODAY IN THE TIMES

#### RUGGER MUGGERS



In today's 16-page guide to the Rugby World Cup, England's stand-off half Rob Andrew assesses his team's chances at Twickenham against New Zealand, the world champions. Plus: a two-page wall chart with which to keep track of the matches; a television guide; and much more

#### BATTLE JOINED



Yesterday the RAF staged its last "scramble" over Germany (page 12), but the controversy over the proposed memorial statue to "Bomber" Harris continues in Letters to the Editor (page 17)

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12 pages of top jobs in today's appointments section, circulated in Britain



## British dogs of war join fight for Croatia

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAGREB

A SCOTTISH former member of the Parachute Regiment is among a growing band of foreign mercenaries, the so-called "dogs of war", arriving to help the heavily outnumbered Croatian armed forces.

As well as Britons, Germans, Austrians, Romanians and even Filipinos are reported to be in frontline positions. They are attracted by Croatia's recently acquired supplies of Canadian dollars plus the cause of a fledgling pro-Western state fighting for its freedom.

"We have a number of British people who are here or who are on the way to help us," explained Bratko, a burly spokesman for the ultra-nationalist Croatian Defence Association. "For obvious reasons, I cannot

say exactly where they are at this moment."

Already ensconced at the association's heavily sandbagged headquarters in the centre of Zagreb is the former para who still wears the regiment's distinctive beret with its silver badge and claims to have left the British army in 1983. The Scot, aged 43, and already respected by the young and often hopelessly inexperienced Croatian militiamen, describes himself as a "military adviser" and deplores the term "mercenary."

Unlike many of the native Croatian gunmen with their sweatbands, earrings and swaggering manner (the local after shave in Zagreb is called Macho), the Scotsman is slightly built and articulate. He has a wife and child at home, claims his politics are middle of the road and says he came to

Croatia after seeing the war on television. "We believed that the people had a cause down here. They said they wanted democracy," he explained. "They just want to be part of Europe. They want to go to discos and they want to go to their work and such-like."

Being on European soil, the Yugoslav civil war has proved unusually accessible to West European mercenaries: The Scot, armed with a Czechoslovak 9mm automatic pistol provided by HOS, the Croatian Defence Association, said he was one of "a motley crew of foreign freelancers."

Much of the finance for the Croatian forces has come from expatriate Croatian communities abroad, notably in Canada, but the Scot insisted that he was paid no more

than the locally recruited fighters, most of whom are bitterly opposed to the most recent ceasefire. He said that four of his friends from Scotland, all ex-British army and two of them also former members of the French Foreign Legion, would be arriving soon.

"These guys have got big souls... but the sorry state of affairs is that they are dying, they are dying when they do not have to be," the ex-para said of his fellow militiamen, most of whom looked exhausted. "We are trying to give them a fighting chance. All we are trying to do is to show them basic battle skills, something they can get a bit of order with."

As well as the mercenaries who are coming to join the Croats, others are reported to have joined the rival Serbian militia known by its second world war name of the Chetniks.

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# Smuggler's claims shed new light on disputed silver hoard

THE Marquess of Northampton's £40 million hoard of Roman silver, currently held by a New York court pending claims by Yugoslavia, Hungary and Lebanon, was definitely found in Yugoslavia, according to new evidence just published in the *Art Newspaper*.

A Yugoslavian national called Alexander Milles claims that the 14 pieces of silver, bought in good faith by Lord Northampton from agents in Switzerland in the early Eighties, were discovered during the Fifties in a sealed sarcophagus in an old copper mine at Barabara on the Istra peninsula. He has photographs of the treasure before and after restoration, as well as

documentation stowed away in safes in Austria and Germany to prove it.

The drawback is that, despite his coherence and the convincing circumstantial detail of his claims, the witness is currently serving a jail sentence for stealing and smuggling precious books and manuscripts from two Zagreb libraries, and is therefore lacking in credibility.

Anna Somers Cocks, editor of the *Art Newspaper*, said yesterday that she published Mr Milles's claims because they came through a trusted contact, an ex-curator at the Zagreb Museum of Decorative Arts, who had been "following up leads" on the silver, but had

## Sarah Jane Checkland reports the latest twist in the saga of £40 million of Roman silver and the three countries who say it is theirs

stopped after she and her children had been threatened by an anonymous telephone caller. "She and the people in the Zagreb Museum believe that this man is speaking the truth," Miss Somers Cocks said.

Lord Northampton was abroad, and unavailable for comment. It is not known how seriously the New York court will view the new evidence. Lawyers are considering a mass of paperwork provided by the claimant countries, as well as by Lord Northampton, before they go into session this autumn.

Mr Milles's claims are the latest in an international saga which has been rumbling on since February last year, when Sotheby's unveiled the treasure, and its £40 million price tag. The 14 lavish and ornamental silver dishes, ewers and other vessels from the late Roman empire were, according to Sotheby's, "more brilliantly decorated and are of greater weight and

importance than any previously known from that period".

Sotheby's said it had the full complement of necessary export documents from Lebanon, but it was not long before archaeologists began to express their scepticism. The most outspoken was Hugh Chapman, general secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, who said that the fact that an export licence had been given by Lebanon did not indicate that Lebanon was the country of origin. "On the contrary, it suggests to me that it was not, because the Lebanese would have been extremely reluctant to let them go if they were part of their heritage,"

According to the *Art Newspaper*.

Mr Milles has had his 15-year sentence reduced to nine amid speculation in Yugoslavia that he made a deal with the authorities to "protect public figures who still hold prominent positions". He claims that Lord Northampton's consignment is a small part of the total hoard, which originally comprised 52 pieces. Parts of the collection were already known in the Fifties, although most of the smuggling took place between 1977 and 1984.

One piece appeared in President Tito's residence towards the end of 1966, he says, "planted" on the president so that the rest of the treasure could get export documents through diplomatic sources.



Lord Northampton paid £40 million in good faith

# Rover sends study teams to Japan in productivity drive

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ROVER is sending hundreds of staff to work on Japanese assembly lines to boost productivity at its British plants and safeguard the jobs of its 37,000 workers.

The company announced yesterday that it is building three new car models in partnership with Honda of Japan in an investment that could be worth £600 million. Rover's decision will safeguard jobs at Longbridge, Birmingham, which will build two of the new models, and Cowley, Oxford.

It is expected the three new models could raise production at the two plants by 150,000 cars a year. However, there will be no new jobs because Rover is planning a drive to

increase productivity by up to 30 per cent in the next five years to survive competition.

That competition comes mainly from the Japanese, particularly Toyota and Nissan, which will be making a total of 400,000 cars annually in Britain by the mid-1990s. Ironically, Honda is providing the means to help Rover to introduce new models, cut costs and retrain its workforce. The Japanese company has a 20 per cent stake in Rover.

Rover workers, from senior executives to assembly line men, are being sent to Honda plants to study the methods that make the Japanese the world's most efficient workers. Groups of up to 20 have

already returned from the United States, where Honda makes 600,000 cars a year, including the Accord range.

The training programme will intensify over the next few months as Rover moves towards full adoption of Japanese-style working practices, including the ending of traditional demarcation lines. George Simpson, Rover's chief executive, said: "We lag way behind making the maximum use of our people. Go to a Japanese factory and you find people taking responsibility, doing their own designs and their own house-keeping. It is that ethos we need in our people."

Rover has been collaborating with Honda since the late 1970s and has already made three car models in partnership with the Japanese; the Triumph Acclaim, the Rover 200 Series and 800 executive model.

The deal agreed this week is the most far-reaching yet with wide implications for Rover and its hundreds of component suppliers in Britain and Europe. The three new cars will use spare capacity at Longbridge and Cowley, a factory that workers feared was under threat of closure.

Centring the link with Honda will enable Rover to control costs of its component buying, which is running at £2.5 billion a year. The two companies intend to buy common components from the same suppliers.

The three new models include a replacement for the Rover 200 Series made at Longbridge. The Birmingham plant will also have a new model. Cowley will build a medium-sized car, codenamed Synchro, a version of which will also be made by Honda at its new factory at Swindon, Wiltshire.



New faces: Julian Lennon, the singer, centre, with the new presenters of tonight's reshaped *Top of the Pops*: Mark Franklin, aged 17 (left), from Swindon, and Tony Dorte, aged 26, from London. The plan is for more live music and less miming and will feature music from the American top 10 and album charts

## BBC switches to job swap revolution

REPORTERS will get the opportunity to be directors or camera operators, producers will be able to try presenting and sound technicians will have the chance to try research or scriptwriting, under plans unveiled yesterday by the BBC news and current affairs section.

Early next year, the first group of BBC journalists, producers and technicians will swap jobs in a move to encourage teamwork and to allow employees the opportunity to develop new skills. News and current affairs staff from radio and television will be merged to form "teams" which will be allocated to make specific news summaries and documentaries for both media.

Each team will make its own decisions about who

### An ambitious scheme is afoot to sweep away demarcation lines at the BBC, reports Melinda Wittstock

should do what although disputes will be arbitrated by the programme team's editor, the BBC said yesterday.

Leading correspondents such as Kate Adie and John Simpson, and presenters such as David Dimbleby and Jeremy Paxman are thought unlikely to be required to take up off-camera positions.

The proposals, outlined in what the BBC described as a "policy-cum-vision" document, will start to take effect early next year, with the formation of a "pilot" team. The scheme, which also involves computerisation to reduce staffing levels, has yet to

be finalised. The BBC said yesterday that it could not yet put a figure on expected job losses or changes in working hours. It said that the details of the scheme would not be finalised until discussions with staff were completed.

"The nub of it is training, but it is also about breaking down barriers: encouraging more co-operation and less demarcation," the BBC said.

Tony Hall, director of news and current affairs, said yesterday: "We have to be in the vanguard of news broadcasting - linking quality, efficiency, harnessing new developments to a tradition of

journalistic excellence. "Our aim for the '90s remains unchanged: to provide the highest quality of service to our viewers and listeners in the most efficient way."

To aid the proposed merger between radio and television news, the BBC will appoint later this autumn a head of overall newsgathering, who will become Mr Hall's number two. A head of training and development for news and current affairs will also be appointed whose responsibilities will include a journalism training course for technical staff. Other training schemes will be introduced to help people move easily between radio and television.

The BBC also plans to form a marketing team to promote news and current affairs output.

## War game paint guns are illegal

Gas powered paint guns used in war games are illegal under firearms legislation, a judge ruled yesterday in a legal precedent. The European Paintball Sports Federation said that it intended to fight the ruling in the High Court.

Judge Hugh Williams's decision was at Swansea crown court, where two former war games entrepreneurs, Mark Williams, aged 25, and Carl Morgan, aged 31, were the first to be prosecuted under the 1968 Firearms Act for having a paint gun. They admitted possessing a firearm without a certificate and were given unconditional discharges.

The court was told that the men thought they were buying legitimate items when they purchased 26 paintball guns for their new war games company at Port Talbot, West Glamorgan. The business collapsed after the guns were confiscated by police.

## Rural activist to join Carey

George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, has appointed Andrew Purkis, currently director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, to be his public affairs adviser. The appointment reflects Dr Carey's determination to maintain a high public profile and effective relationships with politicians. Dr Purkis, brought up as a congregationalist, will advise him on social and political affairs and brief bishops in the Lords. He succeeds the late John Lytton, who will work with Lesley Perry, Dr Carey's press secretary.

## Man is bailed

A man questioned by detectives hunting the killer of Lynne Rogers was released on police bail last night. He will return to Crawley police station, West Sussex, on December 3, police said. The unemployed man, in his 30s from the Crawley area, was arrested in the town on Saturday night. Miss Rogers, aged 17, of Caiford, southeast London, was strangled after being lured to a bogus job interview.

## Champion wins

Maya Chiburdanidze, of the Soviet Union, the defending champion, beat Xie Jun, of China, yesterday in the fourth game of the Women's World Chess Championship in Manila, the Philippines, to level the score at two points each. Twelve games remain. In the World Cup tournament in Reykjavik, Iceland, Anatole Karpov, of the Soviet Union, leads by six points after beating Boris Gelfand, of America.

## Plot evidence

Channel 4 is to hand over to the RUC evidence on which it based last night's *Dispatches* television documentary, which claimed that RUC officers and UDR soldiers belong to a secret group involved in the murders of republicans and Catholics. Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, has asked for evidence to be handed over, but Channel 4 said no government pressure was applied.

## Deserter backed

A British soldier court-martialled for desertion during the Gulf war was yesterday adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International because it said he had not been properly told how to register as a conscientious objector. Victor Williams last month for 14 months last month for deserting in Germany on the eve of departure for the Gulf. He appeared at anti-war demonstrations.

## Strike rejected

Telephone operators voted by 7,816 to 4,539 against industrial action in a ballot conducted by the Union of Communications Workers over British Telecom's decision to cut a further 1,000 jobs at telephone exchanges this year.

## Haughey survives first skirmish

From JAMIE DETTMER IN DUBLIN

CHARLES Haughey, the Irish prime minister, yesterday survived what is being seen in Dublin as an initial engagement in the campaign to topple him from the leadership of Fianna Fail, the main government party.

In a special meeting of Fianna Fail's 101 deputies and senators, which was triggered by a backbench revolt, Mr Haughey said he was determined that the recent series of commercial scandals involving businessmen associated with him would be thoroughly investigated.

He strongly defended his two-year-old coalition government's performance and urged the party to keep its nerve, saying the recent slump in Fianna Fail opinion poll ratings was merely temporary.

Criticism was muted during the meeting, which took place in the fifth floor committee room at the Dail (Parliament), scene of the 1982 and 1983 leadership challenges against Mr Haughey. Forty-two deputies spoke at the meeting, which lasted for six hours. Two deputies said that Mr Haughey should not lead the party into the next election.

Vincent Brady, the party's chief whip, said last night that Mr Haughey had assured deputies that "no protection would be extended whatsoever to people found guilty of corruption no matter who they were".

Several deputies called for the sacking of Dermot Desmond, the chairman of Aer Rianta and a key figure in two of the conflict of interest scandals.

However, Mr Haughey has not buried the challenge to his leadership. His most likely successors, Mary O'Rourke, the education minister, and Albert Reynolds, the finance minister, are both nervous of launching a full scale attack against him until they are sure of their prospects of victory.

Mrs O'Rourke, sister of the former deputy prime minister Brian Lenihan, who was ditched by Mr Haughey last year, is clearly worried about being the first to mount a challenge. Fianna Fail insiders say that if she goes too early she will hand victory to Mr Reynolds.

## Oxfam launches poverty challenge

By RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

OXFAM yesterday marked the start of its fifth year with the launch of a 12-month campaign to combat poverty.

The charity, which in spite of the recession raised a record £69 million last year, an increase of £7 million, says in its report, *It's Time for a Fairer World*, that a child dies every 2.4 seconds from poverty and that one in six families are poorer than a decade ago.

In the charity's annual review, also published yesterday, its director, Lord Judd, says that an "orgy of introspective materialism" is threatening Europe. David Bryer, its overseas director, said that the 1990s may become known as "the decade of disasters" unless the international community tackles underlying causes of poverty.

Oxfam, which later this week sends aid workers to northern Iraq as part of its post-war programme, is nearing the end of a series of meetings with the Charity Commission after censure of its political activities. A statement is expected in the next few weeks.

The charity has taken the commission's criticisms to heart, but remains determined to speak out on worldwide poverty, and it draws a distinction between politics and party politics.

Donations rose last year in response to the plight of refugees after the Gulf war, and the famine in Africa. Fears that the commission enquiry would harm income proved unfounded. Many supporters doubled donations.

Oxfam, founded at Oxford in 1942 by Quakers to tackle famine, now receives inter-denominational support and considers itself a secular body.

## 16 missing after boat sinks

By KERRY GILL

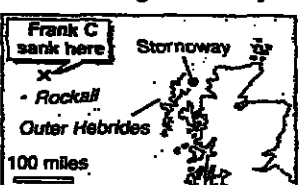
SIXTEEN Spanish fishermen were feared drowned last night after their German-registered vessel, the Frank C, sank in a storm about 250 miles west of Stormway. One survivor was picked up early yesterday by a Danish cargo ship.

It is believed that the 195-tonne fishing boat sank within seconds before dawn on Tuesday and its crew had no time to send out a distress signal. The alarm was raised when the Danish vessel, the Nucleituk, found the survivor at about 8am, 30 hours after the fishing boat sank. The man said he believed that some of the crew might have reached the vessel's second liferaft.

The Nucleituk's captain, Erick Vestegaa, said a flare was seen about four miles away. The crew found the lone survivor in remarkably good health in spite of his ordeal. "He was just fine and a little wet," Captain Vestegaa said. The Frank C, unlike British-registered boats, was not

carrying an emergency radio beacon designed to float free once a vessel sinks and continue sending distress signals.

The search for the missing men, covering an area of about 9,000 square miles northwest of Rockall, continued in spite of worsening weather throughout the day. It



involved two RAF Nimrod, one from Kinloss and the other from St Mawgan, and merchant shipping in the area. Transatlantic aircraft were alerted in case any survivors were able to give weak distress signals.

The survivor told his rescuers that the second liferaft may hold other survivors as some of the crew were on deck when

the Frank C, built in 1960 and Spanish-owned, was sunk. If so, they could survive on emergency provisions for up to a week, although last night winds were reaching 60 knots and visibility had dropped to just over a mile. Lowering cloud forced the Nimrods to search below 400ft in rain and drizzle. The search was co-ordinated by Clyde coastguard.

The RAF search and rescue centre at Pitreavie, near Dundee, said the rescue services had to contend with rough seas, rain and worsening visibility. "An added complication is that the Danish rescuers released the dinghy the man was picked up from so now there are two dinghies loose in the sea, one of them we believe with more survivors on board. Normally a liferaft is kept on board the rescue boat or punctured and sunk to eliminate it from the search."

The search will resume early today.

## Hospital released woman who killed

By PETER DAVENPORT

A JUDGE yesterday called for a top level enquiry into why a dangerously psychotic woman who stabbed a girl to death had been released two days before from a mental hospital where she being held after an earlier knife attack on another girl.

Mr Justice Turner, was speaking at Sheffield crown court after sentencing Carol Ann Barratt, aged 24, for killing Emma Brodie, aged 11, with a carving knife in a crowded shopping arcade. She had made the earlier attack in the same Doncaster arcade.

Barratt pleaded guilty to the manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility of Emma Brodie, at the Frenchgate shopping centre on April 16. She also pleaded guilty to kidnapping another young girl and threatening to kill two women and was

ordered to be detained without limit of time.

Robert Smith, QC, for the prosecution, said that Barratt, of Doncaster, had been a voluntary patient at Doncaster Royal Infirmary but absconded on May 30 and went to the shopping centre, where she seized a 12-year-old girl and threatened her with a knife. Passers-by rescued the girl and Barratt was arrested and ordered to be detained 28 days under the Mental Health Act.

Two weeks after the attack she was allowed out of the hospital after a psychiatrist, Dr Neil Sylvester, agreed to her release following a plea from her mother for her to be allowed home.

Two days after her release Barratt returned to the shopping centre and fatally stabbed Emma Brodie.

## Find on medieval site indicates first links with the East

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE earliest evidence so far of contact between Britain and Japan has emerged from a medieval site in London. A bronze fragment, apparently from a bell or plaque inscribed in Japanese characters, is thought to date from the 14th century, more than 150 years before the first direct European contacts.

The discovery was made almost three years ago during excavations near Southwark Bridge, but has been kept quiet until now while the authenticity of the find was checked. The 1½in long fragment is

engraved with the Japanese character *fuji*, meaning "wisteria". According to Hiroshi Tsude of the University of Osaka, the fragment could form part of the name of the noble Fujiwara family or be the name of the bronze-smith. Professor Tsude dates the fragment anywhere between the 11th and 17th centuries.

Geoff Egan, of the Museum of London, says that the other objects from the layer in which the fragment was found date to the 14th century. Such an early context antedates the first Portuguese contacts with "Cipango" in 1542, and is much earlier than the first British

visit, by Will Adams of Gillingham, in the early 17th century.

The discovery is almost embarrassingly timely. Dr Egan writes in the *Municipal Journal*, not only because of the present Festival of Japan but also because the developers of the Southwark site are the Japanese company Kumagai Gumi.

How the fragment, which from its curvature may well be part of a bronze bell about 50 cm (19in) in diameter, reached London is a mystery: if it is indeed of 14th century origin, then arrival direct by sea from the Orient is unlikely. An overland journey is, however,

quite feasible. Marco Polo's travels in the 1290s made the existence of Japan known in the West, and the Silk Route from China to the Mediterranean had been functioning for centuries before that.

Another possibility is that the bell was brought across Asia by nomads such as the Mongols, and passed into the trading system of the Russians along the Volga. Contact between Asia and Western Europe via the Baltic became well established in Viking times, several centuries before the bronze was buried.

Academic reaction has been one of amazement, according to the

*Municipal Journal*. Timothy Barrett, of London University, said that the find was pretty sensational. "In terms of Japanese-British contacts, even if indirect, this is a remarkable first," he said. James McMullen, of the Oriental Institute at Oxford, called the find extraordinary. "One just wonders how on earth it could have come here," he said.

Dr Egan commented that what the burghers of medieval London made of this exotic object is anyone's guess. "It is likely to have a far more significant cultural role as a museum curiosity today than it had some six centuries ago."



## Repairs to house were cover-up, court is told as couple deny killing and cruelty

## Pair 'murdered baby by banging her head on bedroom wall'

By DAVID YOUNG

A COUPLE killed their six-week-old daughter by smashing her head against a bedroom wall, repaired the dent made in the wall and then took her to a hospital where they asked an ambulance man "Where do I take our dead baby?", the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Robert Rouse, aged 22, and Lyndsay Morris, aged 19, deny murdering their daughter, Sudio, and charges of cruelty to her and to Baby Y, her elder sister, who cannot be named.

John Nutting, for the prosecution, said that the family had arrived at the Mayday hospital, near their home in Croydon, south London, last November and had spoken to an ambulance man. After the conversation, he had grabbed their carrycot and rushed into the hospital shouting for help. A doctor had uncovered the baby and seen "she was white, cold and stiff and had obviously been dead for some hours".

"A glance at her body indicated she had been terribly injured," Mr Nutting said.

The baby girl had four substantial bruises on her face, two on the back of her head

and two more on her right leg. She had a deep bleeding gash bisecting her lower lip. Her left thigh bone was fractured and the thigh itself severely swollen. She had also suffered fractures to her right collar bone, a rib on her right side and a rib on her left side.

The most serious injury was a fracture to her skull. A pathologist had decided that all the injuries had occurred within a day of her death.

The most likely cause of the injuries was that she had been "seized by her leg and swung against a hard surface, fracturing her leg in a twisting, spiral fashion and fracturing her skull as it hit the hard surface".

Mr Nutting said that Baby Y had been found to have five substantial bruises on her head and face, a deep healed gash on her lip and severe bite marks on her arms, hands and feet and a spiral fracture to her lower left leg and older fractures to her right thigh and her right and left lower legs.

The bite marks were "clearly caused by adult teeth", and a dental surgeon had declared them consistent with bites by Mr Rouse.

The court was told that,

because of unexplained injuries soon after her birth, Baby Y had been fostered for some months and put on an "at risk" register. When she was returned to her parents, Croydon social workers had visited the family regularly and frequently noticed bruises, which the parents had explained by saying that Baby Y had banged herself on her cot or fallen on to toys. Medical experts believed that few of the injuries could have been caused accidentally, Mr Nutting said.

Police had found evidence of a concave dent in a partition wall of the room where the children slept. A mould taken of Sudio's skull fitted the dent. In the pathologist's view, the dent could well have been made by her skull. The dent had been filled with old newspapers and filler, Mr Nutting said.

Three bloodstained sheets had been found in a dustbin, with pages of newspapers of the same date as that used to fill the cavity.

Mr Nutting said: "The Crown say that after Sudio died, the defendants tried to conceal evidence of the baby's violent death by repairing the wall and getting



Rouse: bites on baby were said to match his teeth



Morris: denies murder of six-week-old daughter and charges of cruelty to her other child



Dr Williams: called as a prosecution witness

rid of some of the blood-stained sheets."

Mr Nutting said that Mr Rouse and Miss Morris had known each other for many years because their families lived near each other in New Addington, Surrey. They had started going out together in 1988. In January 1989, Miss Morris had been raped by a boy aged 14 and had suffered greatly from the experience. In spring 1989, she had become pregnant by Mr Rouse. In September, they moved to a council flat at Thornton Heath, Croydon.

The court heard evidence from Dr Rosie Williams. The case continues today.

## Care staff nearly quit Orkney operation

By KERRY GILL

SOME social workers called in to help take into care the nine Orkney children after allegations of sexual abuse were on the verge of refusing to take part. It emerged yesterday as the judicial enquiry learnt for the first time how worried social workers had become about the dawn operation.

One of them, Fran Connor, said the social workers flown to Orkney were given so little information that they were ready to stage a last-minute pullout. But they were told that, even if they left, the nine children would be taken from their homes anyway.

Miss Connor's comments represent the strongest attack the enquiry has yet heard about the pre-planning and co-ordination of the exercise. All the social workers were given a brief outline of the allegations that had been made and all were sworn to secrecy. Yet the enquiry has heard several times that their requests for more information were often unanswered.

Miss Connor, aged 25, earlier said she almost broke down while a boy aged 11 was taken into care. The incident happened on a minibus as some of the children were being driven to a children's home.

Asked by Lord Clyde, the chairman, how near the group came to refusing to take part, she replied: "I think the feeling was quite strong."

The enquiry was adjourned until Monday.

## Police hunt gang stealing luxury cars for export

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DETECTIVES from seven countries are hunting an international ring of car thieves using Britain as a staging post to ship luxury vehicles from mainland Europe to buyers on the other side of the world, a police conference was told yesterday.

Earlier this year British detectives discovered a Ferrari and a Mercedes, together worth £200,000, awaiting shipment near Heathrow airport. The vehicles would have

been worth over £400,000 in the thieves' market in Japan and the Middle East. Investigation revealed that the ring had shipped out another 46 cars from London worth almost £4 million.

Officers from Spain, Italy, France, Germany, the Lebanon, Japan and Britain met at Interpol headquarters in Lyons to coordinate investigations. Details of the search for the ring were revealed yesterday at the annual autumn conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Preston. Senior detectives spoke of the growing risks from international crime in the EC as frontiers disappear in the 1990s.

Detective Superintendent Don Taylor, head of the No 7 Regional Crime Squad, said the car ring investigation began when Spanish police asked for help. They were trying to detect criminals stealing a "vast number" of Mercedes cars which were being exported by ferry from Spain to North Africa and then to the Middle East.

Privatising the system for escorting prisoners to court could free up to 1,800 police officers for normal duties such as beat patrols, the association was told.

The privatisation programme, due to start with invitations to tender to private security firms this month, may also save the use of 1,200 prison officers, which is the equivalent of the manpower of two large prisons.

John Evans, chief constable of Devon and Cornwall said the police welcomed the plan, which will begin in three regions next year.

## Doctors accused over boy's death

TWO doctors caused the death of a teenage leukaemia patient because of criminal failures in their treatment, Birmingham crown court was told yesterday. Malcolm Savage, aged 16, died in March last year two weeks after a drug was injected into his spine instead of his arm at Peterborough district hospital, the court was told.

A consultant who noticed the error brought together a team that tried to stop the drug reaching the patient's brain by inserting a needle with a tiny tube at the base of the skull, the jury was told. The tube, however, entered the stem of the brain, causing part of it to die and the damage led to the boy's death.

Stephen Coward, QC, for the prosecution, said that the actions of Dr Michael Prentice and Dr Barry Sullman, who had been responsible for injecting the drug Vincristine, had contributed significantly to the death. Mr Coward said that neither doctor had read a label on the syringe containing the drug before carrying out the injection. Another drug that the boy was receiving would have been injected into his spine but the Vincristine should have gone into his arm.

Dr Prentice, aged 25, of Leicester, and Dr Sullman, aged 27, of Manor Park, northeast London, both deny manslaughter. Mr Coward said: "The Crown say that they caused the death of Malcolm Savage by criminal failures in their treatment of him."

The boy, from Spalding, Lincolnshire, who had been diagnosed as suffering from leukaemia when he was four, was being treated for a relapse. The trial continues today.

## Mercy for mother who killed

A DEPRESSED mother who smothered her two children with a pillow was put on probation yesterday.

Yvonne Hannon, aged 24, killed her two-year-old daughter Lawree and one-year-old son Paul last April, fearing they were in danger. Stafford crown court was told. Then she tried to kill herself, fearing violence from the children's father, whom she had left.

Hannon, of Wednesfield, West Midlands, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility, was put on probation for three years on condition that she continued to receive psychiatric treatment. Mr Justice Judge told her: "I think moral responsibility for your actions was effectively extinguished because you desperately needed treatment."

## A toast to Milton Keynes

By ALAN HAMILTON

WATCH out, Puligny-Montrachet, Romanée-St Vivant, Chateau Margaux and all you other aristocrats of the grape, the world is about to experience Chateau Milton Keynes 91.

Six acres of clay on the banks of the Grand Union canal, in a city whose image is hardly one of ancient winemaking traditions, is a world away from the sunny hillsides of Burgundy or the Rheingau. But a succession of hot dry summers has confounded the sceptics, and the result will be formally uncorked at a wine fair in the somewhat unromantic surroundings of the Milton Keynes Central Business Exchange next week.

Tony Stanier, aged 55, who lost his job as a GLC transport manager five years ago, gambled some of his redundancy payment in buying grafted root stock vines



Stanier: planning to expand his vineyard

from the Mosel region of Germany and putting them at the mercy of the Buckinghamshire soil. Now he has more than 3,000 flourishing on the canal bank, and plans to plant 1,000 more next April. Mr Stanier describes his wine as distinctly English, but within the German tra-

dition and plainly identifiable as a Mosel type. It will carry the vineyard name Woughton Park.

English winemaking on a commercial scale has been enjoying a steady renaissance for the past 20 years, and about 60 vineyards are in production. Milton Keynes is far from being at the limits of English viticulture: vineyards flourish in Norfolk, Leicestershire and west Wales.

Woughton Park is not yet ready to take its place on supermarket shelves. Mr Stanier hopes that most of this year's production will be sold through a local hotel. Next year he plans to take a sample case to a wine fair in the Mosel.

Chateau Milton Keynes may never aspire to be a premier cru but, like Sam Johnson's dog on its hind legs, there will be some amusement in the fact that it is done at all.

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**O**n 26 February 1991, Kuwait was liberated from the cruel hand of Saddam Hussein.

But for many families, the celebrations were tinged with sadness. Their loved ones remained in the clutches of the Iraqi regime. With little prospect of release.

Over 2,000 Kuwaitis are still held in appalling conditions in Iraq's jails. Anyone who saw the evidence of torture and victimisation that Saddam's men left in Kuwait will fear for their safety.

As Kuwait shares your joy at the release of John McCarthy and Jackie Mann, we ask you to remember the fate of the Kuwaiti hostages.

Please add your voice to those demanding that the dictator Saddam Hussein meet his obligations to the United Nations by freeing these victims.

**We have much to  
thank you for**

The people of Kuwait have much to celebrate, and many people to thank. Not least in the United Kingdom.

Our countries have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship. And in our hour of need, you did not let us down.

Your country supported us, and your forces fought with courage and professionalism by our side.

For this, our country owes you a debt which can never be repaid, and will never be forgotten.

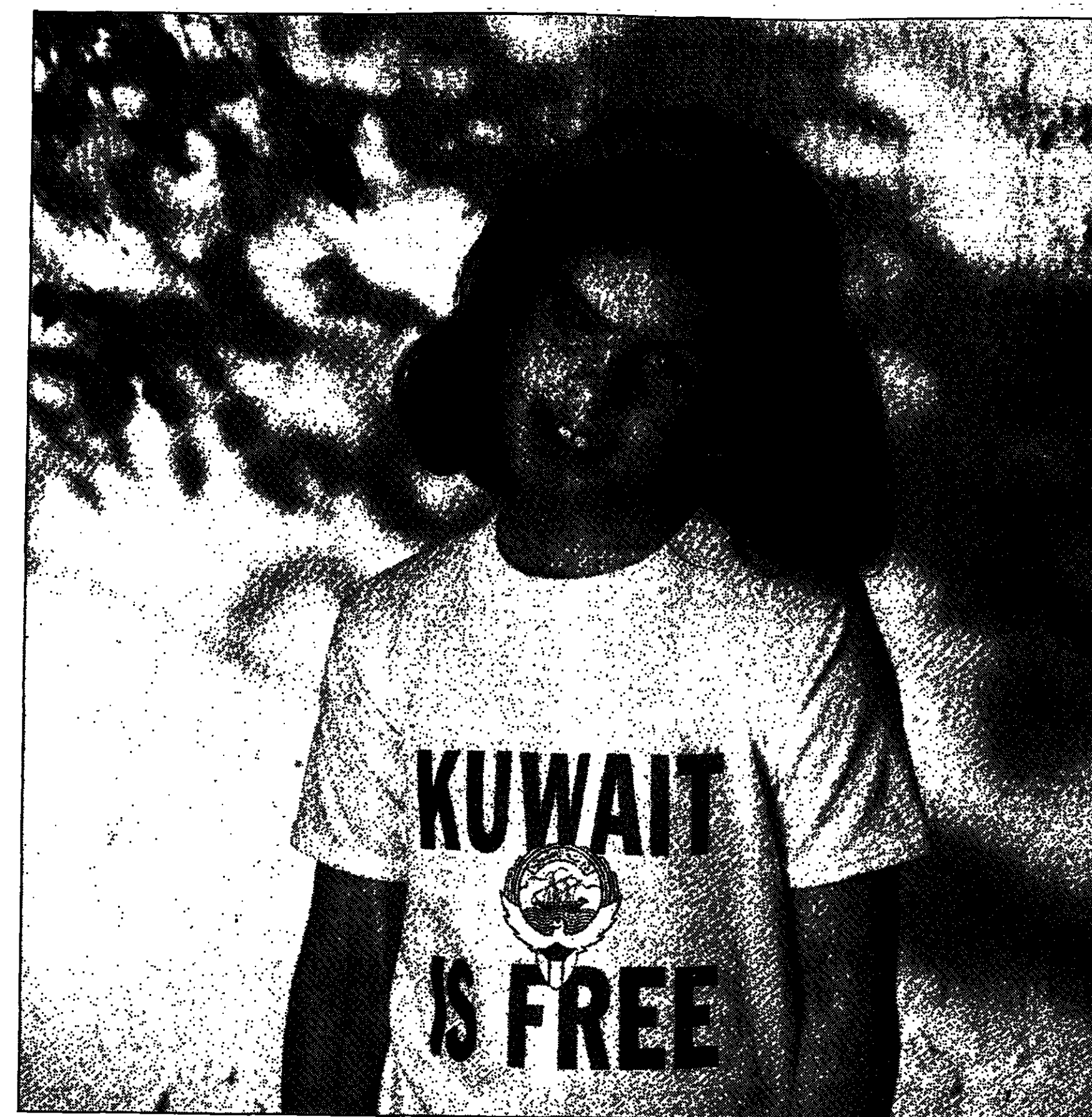
**The legacy of Saddam**

Even amidst the joy of liberation, we knew that a massive task awaited us.

Burning oil wells threatened a major ecological disaster. Our infrastructure was in ruins. Even our hospitals had been ransacked and the equipment and medicines carried off to Baghdad.

Today, we are meeting the challenge of reconstruction with vigour. Our water, electricity and communications are back in operation. Almost 500 oil wells have been successfully capped, and work continues to save the environment.

Many British companies have



# Sadly, over 2,000 Kuwaitis are still waiting for liberation.

been awarded contracts to assist in this task. We actively encourage more to submit tenders, for a huge amount of work still remains.

**The rule of law prevails**

Inevitably, in the aftermath of the invasion, feelings were running high. Tragically, this anger spilled over into lawlessness.

The Government has acted swiftly and positively. In a major public statement, the Crown Prince has emphasised that no Kuwaiti stands above the law, and that any crime would be punished

to the law's full extent.

Thankfully, the situation is now much calmer, and the rule of law prevails. We are able, at last, to concentrate our energies on rebuilding our country.

**"Thank you"  
says too little**

That Kuwait has a future at all, is thanks to the alliance in which the United Kingdom played such a major role.

Words are inadequate to express

our thanks. You have a permanent place in the hearts of all Kuwaitis.

Even in the hearts of those who are not yet free.

*"When your soldiers died on Kuwaiti soil, they symbolised bonds of friendship which even the Butcher of Baghdad could not break."*

*We admire them for their bravery, we honour*

*them for their commitment and we respect them for their belief in freedom."*

**Emir of Kuwait**

Issued by the Embassy of the State of Kuwait, London.



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WHO PAYS THE BEST INTEREST

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## Banks are accused of arrogance over 'arbitrary' charges

By RAY CLANCY

TOO many banks have a record of "breath-taking arrogance" and regard their customers as fair game for imposing arbitrary charges, often without warning, a Which? annual survey of banking services says today.

The magazine says banks should make use of a new code of practice being drawn up to improve services and consumer relations. The survey found that the number of customers unhappy with the running of their bank or building society account has doubled since last year. Over a third of those who took part in the survey were satisfied, but more than 10 per cent were "positively unhappy", usually with high charges.

The banks said they were monitoring complaints and noting what customers wanted in an effort to improve services. The Midland, which in the survey came out worst for overall satisfaction and efficiency, said it was very disappointed. "We have our own internal surveys that show that most customers are satisfied but we take this report very seriously."

The Midland has introduced questionnaires at its 1,880 branches to learn what

its customers think of the bank's services. Leaflets explaining how to complain are available in all branches.

Yorkshire Bank and the Bank of Scotland topped a quality league table of 29 banks and building societies followed by the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Abbey National and Nationwide Anglia building societies. A total of 2,786 customers took part in the random postal survey in May and June.

Charges emerged as the main concern, especially those imposed on overdrafts. Failure to carry out requested transfers, money taken from accounts without permission, errors involving cash dispensers and mistakes with direct debits and standing orders also caused concern.

Charges varied widely. The cost of a duplicate statement averaged £3.45 with the Nationwide the highest at £6. Stopping a cheque cost an average of £5.65 but customers with Girobank and Robert Fleming/Save and Prosper were charged £10.

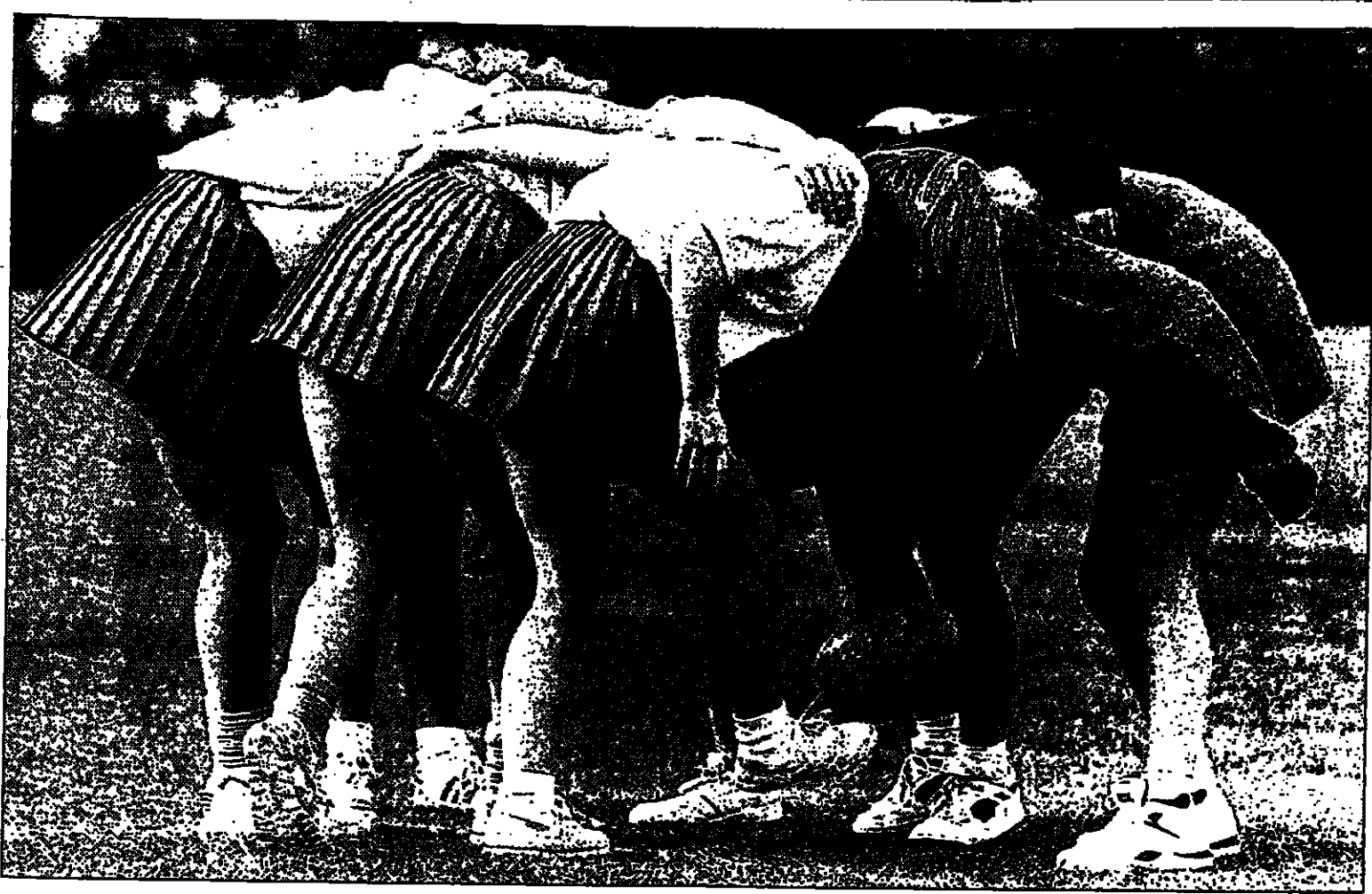
"Check your statement carefully. Banks and building societies can and do make mistakes. The two key rules are to make sure you spot the

mistake and then to complain effectively," Which? says.

Complaints to the banking ombudsman have risen every year. However, Chris Eadie, deputy banking ombudsman, said much of the increase was due to people being more aware of how to complain.

Barclays found that many complaints were about charges for letters telling customers that they had overdrawn. The charge was withdrawn and the bank also published a full list of charges. Lloyds contacts its five million customers periodically to monitor satisfaction and ask for suggestions.

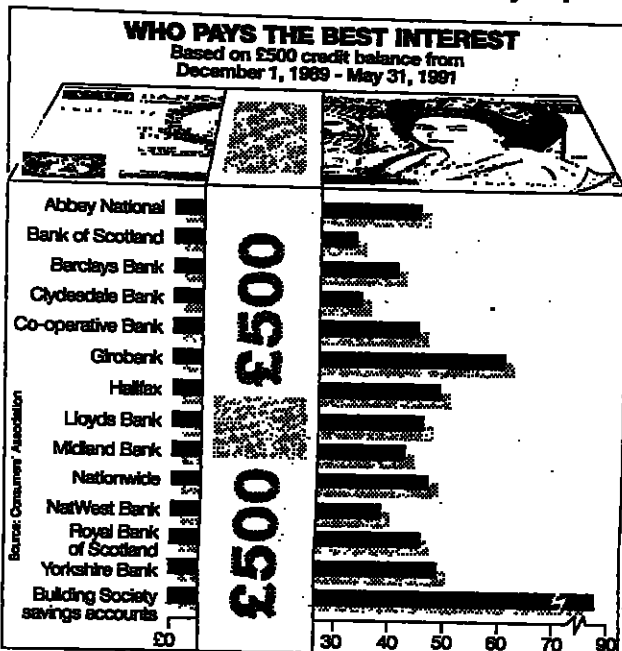
Complaints from customers do not always concern their own well-being. One TSB customer suggested that the hearing should be turned down so that women staff showed less cleavage. Another expressed concern about left-handed customers who found it difficult to fill in cheque stubs.



Packing down: girls at Brindley Moor High School in Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, playing New Image rugby, a non-contact version

of the sport introduced to the school at the girls' request. Their interest has been generated by the Rugby World Cup, which starts today. Carol

Isherwood, women's national coach and developer, said New Image "removes the fear of being hurt, as there is no push or pressure allowed".



### How to call your branch to account

ROBERT Breckman was appalled when he found error after error on his Lloyds bank account (Ray Clancy writes). A chartered accountant, he knew exactly what to do and after making numerous complaints he billed the bank for the time and inconvenience caused and accepted a payment of £250.

He believes that the only way banks are going to improve their service is if customers stand up for themselves. Mr Breckman and his wife Julie were the victims of several mistakes. There was a mistake in interest calculations on credits, a transfer from a deposit account to a current account was not made and details of Mr Breckman's account were disclosed without his permission.

"It was a flagrant breach of confidentiality," he said. He

went to see the manager. "I came away with the impression that if I was not happy then I could take my account elsewhere." He was determined that "the bank should pay for its mistakes" and he sent Lloyds a bill for £500 and accepted £250 for his time and inconvenience. "The only way we can get things moving is to write letters and jump up and down," he said.

John Robson, a financial researcher, also decided to make a fuss when Barclays closed his account without his permission when he moved from Essex to Berkshire. He was left without a cheque card and cash card and unable to withdraw money. Barclays said that it was not normal practice to close one account before the other was operating and in Mr Robson's case there had been a mistake.

### Damages for Herald seaman

A seaman who suffered psychiatric illness after helping in the aftermath of the 1987 Herald of Free Enterprise disaster was awarded undisclosed High Court damages yesterday. Trevor Rapley, aged 49, assisted bereaved relatives and identified bodies of colleagues, many of which had been in the sea for weeks.

Mr Rapley, of St Margaret's at Cliffe, Dover, was not on the ferry when it sank, with the loss of 192 lives, but offered to help afterwards. He suffered nervous shock and anxiety due to his experiences, and, in 1988, was declared unfit for work at sea. Agreed damages were awarded by consent against P&O European Ferries.

### Tea junction

Tasters sipped 4,000 cups of tea before pronouncing Road Chef's Orchard Restaurant at Rownhams Motorway Services on the M27 winner of the Tea Council's 1991 Motorways Best Cup of Tea Award.

### Scot stranded

Immigration authorities in Florida refused a Scots woman's request to be deported. Jacquelyn Nolan said she could not afford an air ticket.

### Historic medals sell for £33,000

By JOHN SHAW

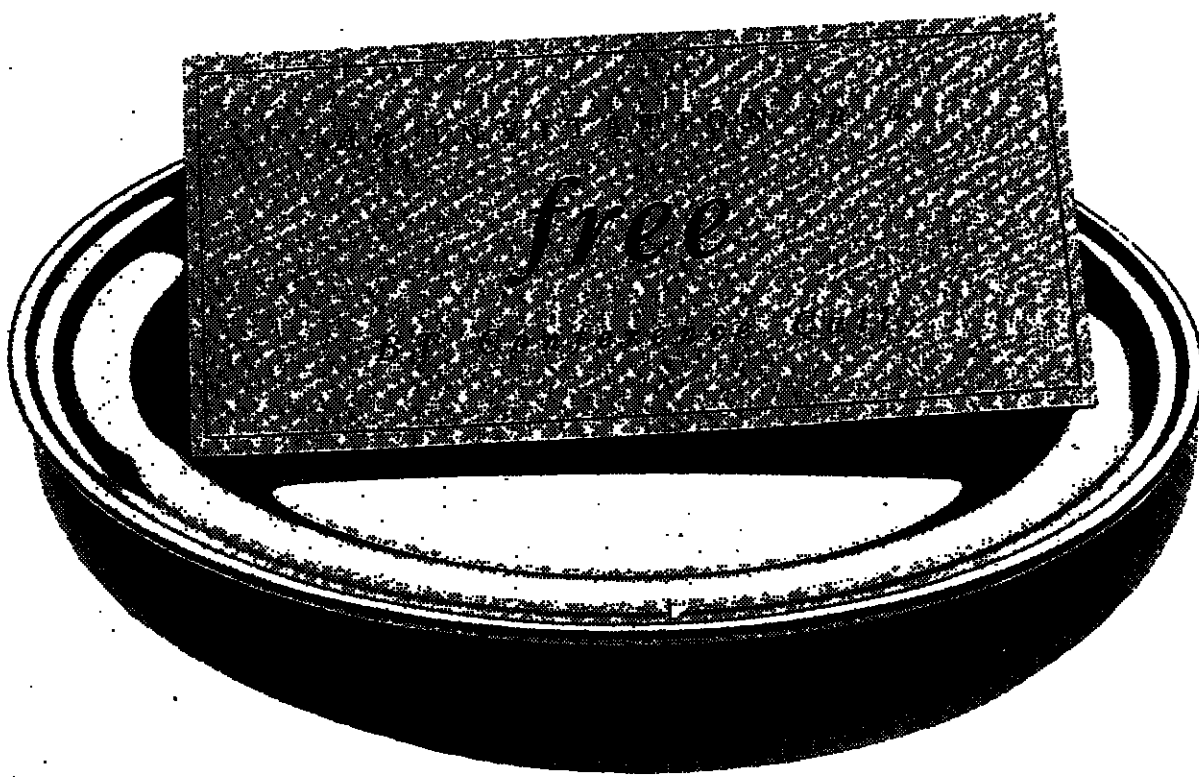
FOUR medals awarded to one of the captains who served Nelson at Trafalgar in 1805 made £33,000 at auction yesterday, dispersing 200 years of naval and military history from two related Scottish families.

Captain Philip Durham commanded HMS Defiance and was wounded in the leg and side but, unlike Nelson, survived the battle and carried Nelson's Knight of the Bath banner at his funeral. His decorations included a small gold Trafalgar medal, one of only 27 struck, the Order of the Bath and a French order of military merit. They were bought by Richard Kirch, a London dealer.

The auction, at Phillips in Edinburgh, was of 350 lots from Meldounfoot, near Peebles, a house built to house memorabilia from the Durhams and the Murrays, later Wolfe Murrays.

They were sold by Jean Fyfe, who inherited the collection from her father, George Wolfe Murray. She was delighted with the £284,513 raised by the auction, which was 100 per cent sold.

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The Economist

## Heseltine of planning poll tax

By Nicholas...

### What they decided yesterday

...the government...

### Debates today

...the government...

### Kinnock's

...the government...



# Heseltine accused of planning £1bn poll tax handout

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is secretly planning to defuse a likely dispute over poll tax bills next year with an emergency £1 billion package exempting social security claimants from the tax, Labour claimed yesterday, on the basis of an alleged leak from the environment department.

The prediction came from David Blunkett, the party's local government spokesman, who told the Labour party's annual conference in Brighton that Michael Heseltine, the environment minister, planned to "bribe" the electorate shortly before polling day.

## What they decided yesterday

Yesterday conference passed resolutions

□ to monitor racism within Europe and to push for liberalisation of immigration controls "within the spirit of civil liberties";

□ to bring in a freedom of information act, a monopoly and mergers commission investigation into media cross-ownership, and a statutory right of reply to factual inaccuracies in the press;

□ to introduce a bill of rights for disabled people and take measures to end discrimination against the deaf;

□ to protect free speech, privacy, the right to demonstrate, to join a trade union, to picket peacefully; and to repeal legislation against lesbians and gay men including "clause 28";

□ to end convictions on the basis of uncorroborated evidence, end privatised prisons, and overhaul the Crown Prosecution Service;

□ to urge the home secretary to set up an independent, open enquiry into the cases of the Tottenham 3;

□ to criminalise "marital rape", to call for more female judges and give existing judges compulsory special training about rape;

□ to review the case of Sarah Thornton and other women jailed for killing violent partners;

□ to decentralise power and elect regional assemblies, give Parliament a normal working day, abolish the House of Lords and set a spending limit on all political parties for general elections;

□ to strengthen local authorities and restore equitable finance;

□ in view of recent riots, to seek new measures to help inner cities;

□ to set up an integrated transport policy;

□ to institute an integrated policy to revitalise rural areas.

## Debates today

Today's conference opens with Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, outlining environment policy. Delegates will debate resolutions on health, the environment, homes, and arts and leisure.

In the afternoon, Gerald Kaufman will speak on Britain in the world and the conference will consider resolutions on the Middle East, on aid and development, defence, and Northern Ireland.

ment said: "It is 100 per cent untrue. The secretary of state has made no bid. He has not talked to anyone about it. It has not even been considered."

Mr Blunkett said later that Mr Heseltine had postponed an announcement at next week's Conservative conference because the election had been delayed. He said he had received a specific leak from the department and he was unimpressed by the denial.

He told the conference that the government was hiding a billion-pound handout until just before the election next spring "in order to manipulate next year's poll tax". He said that, if the Tories won the election, they would raise VAT to recoup the money, as they had done this year with their £140 cut in poll tax bills.

In the summer, Mr Heseltine lost the first round of his battle with cabinet colleagues to scrap the rule forcing students and social security claimants to pay 20 per cent of the community charge. However, there were strong indications that he intended to reopen the question in the autumn. Yesterday's claims by Labour were a further suggestion that Mr Heseltine has not abandoned his quest.

His initial approach floundered on the Treasury's insistence that the £400 million cost of scrapping the rule should be clawed back in lower social security payments. Those were uprated by an average 20 per cent when the tax was introduced, to enable the poor to pay their bills. Tony Newton, the social security secretary, vetoed a clawback, insisting it would prove politically unacceptable to take money off the poorest people.

The picture has been clouded further by the difficulty councils face in collecting the charge. Conservative and Labour local authority leaders have told ministers that it costs far more to collect the poll tax from people on income support than is raised in revenue. They have said that relieving them of this burden would give them more

time and money to pursue other non-payers liable for the full charge.

Although ministers publicly ruled out a change as recently as last month, saying that it would be unfair on people who had made sacrifices to pay their bills, Mr Blunkett insisted yesterday that a U-turn was on the way. His aides added that the Treasury would find the extra £400 million from the contingency reserve for next year, with £500 million to cover unpaid poll tax of £1.5 billion.

Ministers believe that their powers to cap the final round of poll tax bills next spring, which could be sent out only weeks before an election, will head off politically damaging rises. But they are worried about an electoral backlash over non-payment. Councils are surcharging charge-payers to cover the mounting shortfalls caused by people refusing to pay the tax. Unless action is taken, those surcharges could be more than £100 in some parts of the country.

Mr Blunkett said yesterday that a Labour government would immediately scrap the poll tax and its council tax replacement, legislation for which will dominate the new session of Parliament. It would also abolish the 20 per cent rule. In a debate contrasting Labour's commitment to quality in local services to the Tory obsession with "cheapness", he sought to upstage Mr Heseltine by challenging him to find the £400 million needed to spare the poor their bills.

He claimed that the Conservatives were already in deep trouble over their replacement for the poll tax. They were confused about how many property bands to introduce, and their proposed rebate and discount system would cause havoc and entail the maintenance of registers.

Labour's proposal for a modernised version of the rates would ensure that people contributed according to their ability to pay, he said. Rebates would be improved and retired people living alone would be protected.

Militant challenge, page 1



Study in spots: Jo Richardson (left) chatting yesterday with Kathy Sutton, Labour's equal opportunities adviser

## Tories still ahead on law and order

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR attempts to grasp the initiative from the Tories on law and order in the election run-up apparently suffered a setback yesterday with the publication of a poll indicating that the Conservatives still have a decisive lead on the issue.

The Harris survey, commissioned by Conservative Central Office, indicates that only 3 per cent of those questioned back Labour's pledge to abolish the Prevention of Terrorism Act and 8 per cent its plans to make police authorities wholly elected. Three-quarters of the weighted sample of 1,080 adults supported lengthening the periods

offenders should serve in jail before becoming eligible for parole.

Delegates at Labour's annual conference later backed unanimously a composite motion endorsing calls by Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary, to create a body to investigate suspected misdeeds of justices, and pledges to improve jail conditions, return "privatised" prisons to the public sector, and extend legal aid. They also voted for a review of the case of Sara Thornton, jailed for killing her violent husband.

## PR debate shows deep divisions

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE conference discussed a resolution calling on the party to "seize every opportunity to publicise and discuss Labour's new openness to electoral reform". But the result of the card vote after a debate that revealed deep divisions on electoral reform and proportional representation will not be announced until today.

Labour leaders are encouraging debate on PR while steering away from conclusions, in the hope of attracting former SDP and Liberal voters without committing themselves to changing electoral law. But the loudest cheers in the debate came when Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North and a former member of the party's national executive, said that he had not come into politics to provide a permanent cabinet seat for Paddy Ashdown or to preside over the reincarnation of David Owen.

Mr Hoyle was applauded for saying that the pressure for PR had been "born of the defeatism of the Thatcher years" and would condemn Labour to many years of coalition government. The party, he said, should commit itself to no deals, no coalitions and no fixes. But frontbencher Jeff Rooker, the MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, backing PR, asked "What's the point of this party if it's not to make life fairer for our citizens?"

Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, praised the interim report of the committee on electoral systems chaired by Raymond Plant, but disappointed those who had hoped that Labour might advance publication of the final report to before the next election by saying that it would be ready for next year's conference. He said that there

was no single utopian answer to the problem of "fair voting" and emphasised: "The report shows that we need not necessarily be wedded to the same electoral system for all levels of institution."

"Different bodies may have a different job to do... it is not necessarily the case that the same system should apply to the House of Commons or to the European parliament, the regional assemblies or local government."

Mr Whitty said that the report had shown that some PR systems would mean "almost certain coalition government", resulting in small parties having disproportionate influence, with those with the smallest votes effectively determining who the government would be.

Earlier Roy Hattersley, the party's deputy leader, said that the Plant report demonstrated Labour's "open-minded willingness to treat constitutional change with the seriousness which it deserves, not as a slogan or as the back door into government". He repeated his own opposition to PR for the Commons, saying that he opposed coalitions because parties should be elected on their manifestoes and keep to them. "I do not want to negotiate our policies away in return for Liberal or Ulster Unionist votes."

With a view to the possibility of a hung parliament, a possibility they cannot acknowledge publicly, Mr Kinnoch and his colleagues are engaged in delicate manoeuvres designed to demonstrate the party's seriousness of purpose on electoral reform without taking any irrevocable steps.

## Charter of new rights pledged

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

### CONSTITUTION

A VISION of Britain where power is in the hands of the people was put before the conference yesterday by Roy Hattersley, the party's deputy leader, when he opened a wide-ranging debate on the constitution.

He promised a charter of rights, including freedom of information, reform of the courts, devolution of power away from the cabinet and abolition of the House of Lords. The conference carried resolutions committing a Labour government to improve the rights of many disadvantaged groups, including the disabled, ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees.

Mr Hattersley said the greatest of all rights was the right to know the truth. He promised that a Labour government would introduce a freedom of information bill within its first year.

It would outlaw racial discrimination and set up a more powerful Commission for Racial Equality. It would alter the immigration laws to bring together families kept apart for years.

Labour's plans for the courts, he said, would allow a new breath of fresh air to blow through them. There would be a sentencing council to bring consistency; legal aid would be made more widely available; efficiency of courts would be improved. "It is absurd that the courts are organised for the convenience of judges."

There would be an inspector of courts with the task of dragging the administration of justice into the twentieth century. "Judges who find that an unacceptably revolutionary proposal will have no obligation thrust upon them to remain on the bench until their eightieth birthday."

The party intended to limit the power of arbitrary government by ending the royal prerogative. Ministers would be obliged to act only with the authority of Parliament.

Mr Hattersley was cheered as he promised to abolish the House of Lords and replace it with an elected second chamber. "A party that looks to the future cannot preserve such a relic of the past - a past built on patronage, privilege and the denial of the basic concept of elected democracy," he said.

Ramesh Kolli of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians moved a motion calling on a Labour government to correct Conservative damage to public service broadcasting and to provide a statutory right of reply to inaccuracies in the press. He said that the removal of funds was damaging the quality of television.

Michael Barrett, National League for the Blind and Disabled, moved a motion calling for a new commitment to removing the discrimination and disadvantage suffered by disabled people.

Edith Nicholl, Doncaster Central, said deaf people did not have party political broadcasts in their first language, British sign language.

Donald Dewar, shadow Scottish secretary, said that Labour was promising a new deal to the Scots. It would end the farce whereby ministers talked to Scotland but did not listen to it.

### CONFERENCE DIARY by Roger Wood

## Heffer's post-mortem attack

THE attacks on Neil Kinnoch's leadership continue from all directions, including beyond the grave. The Labour leader was described yesterday as a cynical manipulator with a vindictive trait in a book by left-wing MP Eric Heffer, who died earlier this year.

The timing of the publication is clearly an embarrassment as Heffer, who represented Liverpool's Walton constituency, was always a much loved figure at the Labour conference. He will be remembered best for the time he walked off the 1985 conference platform as Kinnoch made a speech attacking Militant.

The bitterness has not diminished with time. In the book Heffer repeats the

charge of the left wing that Kinnoch has abandoned his old beliefs on a range of topics, including nuclear disarmament, trade union rights and the European Community.

"If Labour wins the next election it will be despite, not because of, Kinnoch's supposedly inspirational leadership," he says. "Some will say I am being too harsh and that Neil is really a kind, friendly person. I have not found him so. There is a vindictive trait in him."

Heffer continues: "He has gone further than Hugh Gaitskell in revising the party's principles, policies and organisation. He has got away with it because the party elected him in the belief that he was a left-wing

leader who would carry out socialist policies. What an illusion that turned out to be."

The book is available at the Labour party shop in the conference centre and was sold yesterday for 50p. *Never a Yes Man - The Life and Politics of an Adopted Liverpudlian*, by Eric Heffer (Verso; £16.95).

Another theory as to why John Major decided to kill speculation about an election this year emerged in Brighton yesterday. Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow, believed that the prime minister may have been forced to "stop dithering" by the Queen so that she could be given a date for the Queen's

speech to open the next session of Parliament.

The date of the Queen's speech, October 31, was announced within 24 hours of Downing Street making it known that there would be no election in November. Dalyell regards the speed of the announcement as "strange".

John Smith stopped by the Scotch Whisky Association trade stand at the party conference. As he left a passer-by enquired: "Have you just committed yourself to reducing the tax on Scotch, John?" "Oh no," replied the shadow Chancellor. "We've got enough votes in Scotland."

If he perseveres with that line, they may not last...

## Kinnock's hands tied as he puts together his first cabinet team

In three weeks' time, Neil Kinnoch's supporters in the parliamentary party will be choosing 18 members of what might turn out to be the next Labour cabinet, Philip Webster reports

LABOUR MPs are only three weeks away from choosing what could turn out to be the first Labour cabinet for 13 years. If Labour wins the election, Neil Kinnoch, unlike previous Labour leaders, will have little say over which faces appear at his cabinet table.

The rules have changed since Lord Callaghan of Cardiff put together the last Labour administration. Now 20 of the 22 cabinet places would be taken by people who have been elected in opposition: Mr Kinnoch, Roy Hattersley, his deputy, and the 18 elected members of the shadow cabinet. Nominations for all the posts open next Wednesday.

The remaining two, the Lord Chancellor, and leader of the House of Lords, will be in Mr Kinnoch's gift as will the portfolios allocated to the cabinet members. After so long out of office Labour pundits are delighted to be able to indulge in the sport of cabinet-making again.

The liveliest speculation surrounds the jobs in the Lords. Lord Richard, who

was formerly a junior Labour minister, a British permanent representative to the UN, and a European commissioner, is emerging as a contender to be the first Labour Lord Chancellor since 1979. He may just pip to the post Lord Irvine of Lairg, Labour's spokesman on "home affairs" in the Lords, who has seemed destined for the woolsack since he was made a life peer in 1987. Or Mr Kinnoch might strike a blow for sex equality by choosing Lady Mallalieu, QC, the barrister and farmer.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, who has been leader of the Labour peers for nine years, could be rewarded by being made leader of the Lords. He will be 75 in September.

Lady Blackstone, master of Birkbeck college, chairman of the Institute of Public Policy Research, the left's main think-tank, and a close adviser to the Labour leader, would be a younger candidate. She has been in the Lords for four years and as a spokeswoman on education and Treasury matters her reputation is growing quickly. Her main



Promotion hopes: Kevin McNamara (left), Lady Mallalieu, Ann Clwyd, Ann Taylor and Lord Richard

rival will be Lord Williams of Elvel, chairman of the price commission under the last Labour government, deputy leader of the Labour peers and a frontbench spokesman on a range of issues, including the economy and defence.

As prime minister, Mr Kinnoch would not be bound to keep the same cabinet. The rules, drawn up by the parliamentary Labour party, apply only to his first cabinet. In theory, he could disband it within weeks and appoint his own. In practice, that will not happen. The Labour leader would be too busy in those early days to invite an open revolt from

his MPs. The renewed sense of optimism in Brighton about Labour's chances of power means that Labour MPs will approach their task with extra care when they start voting in two weeks. This time they might be electing substance, not shadows. In practice, there are unlikely to be big changes. Mr Kinnoch could be expected to leave his first cabinet in place for some time, probably a year. Thereafter he would reward the achievers and discard the indifferent performers.

Most Labour MPs believe that Mr Kinnoch's home secretary would be Mr Hattersley, his foreign secretary Gerald

Kaufman, and his Chancellor of the Exchequer John Smith. It is unlikely that Mr Kinnoch would want to move other figures such as Bryan Gould (environment), Robin Cook (health), Gordon Brown (trade and industry), Tony Blair (employment), John Prescott (transport), Frank Dobson (energy) or Michael Meacher (social security) from their present portfolios. Jack Cunningham, the present shadow Commons leader, could be given the defence portfolio.

The first Labour cabinet would have to be appointed before any Whitehall reorganisation that Mr Kinnoch might want to execute. Jobs now held by

shadow cabinet members that do not directly correspond to an existing cabinet place (Jo Richardson, women; Ann Taylor, environment protection; Ann Clwyd, overseas development) would have to be attached to other departments. Barry Jones and Donald Dewar pick themselves as the Welsh and Scottish secretaries.

A difficulty for Mr Kinnoch could emerge if Kevin McNamara again fails to be elected to the shadow cabinet. He is shadow Northern Ireland secretary and would be first choice for the job. Mr Kinnoch, however, would clearly prefer the job to go to a minister of cabinet rank to avoid the risk of any offence in Ulster. He cannot merely create another place in the cabinet. The Ministerial and Other Salaries Act, 1975, limits the number of "first tier", or cabinet, salaries to 21, excluding that of the Lord Chancellor. Unless someone is prepared to do the job for nothing, Mr Kinnoch has no leeway in the matter.

Mr Kinnoch's cabinet would strike an important blow for women. John Major's has no women members. Labour's rule requiring MPs to vote for at least three women means that there will be no such omission. Margaret Beckett (shadow Treasury chief secretary), Ms Richardson, Mrs Taylor and Ms Clwyd already have their places in the shadow team.



## Health chiefs ban sleeping pill over fear of side effects

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE world's most widely prescribed sleeping pill was abruptly withdrawn by the health department yesterday because of fears that it could cause psychiatric side effects.

The decision to withdraw Halcion, the leading brand, and similar medicines containing triazolam was recommended by the government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines. About one and a half million prescriptions for the drug are issued in Britain every year.

The decision infuriated Upjohn, the American manufacturer of Halcion. "There is absolutely no scientific or medical evidence that warrants withdrawal of Halcion tablets in the UK or any other country," Theodore Cooper, chairman of Upjohn, said in New York last night. The company has until November 8 to appeal against the health department's action.

In announcing the withdrawal, William Asscher, chairman of the committee,

said: "It is now considered that the risks of treatment with triazolam outweigh the benefits." A much higher frequency of psychiatric side effects, particularly loss of memory and depression, was associated with it than with other benzodiazepine drugs, Professor Asscher said.

The health department said this link was shown by information recently made available to the committee. It appeared to be confirmed by doctors' reports of similar adverse reactions among their patients: 390 cases had been recorded, including 161 reports of psychiatric reactions.

The health department said patients using triazolam should consult their doctors before stopping their treatment. The psychiatric reactions were reversible, it said.

Human insulin is unlikely to be linked with serious side effects suffered by many diabetics, experts said.

The genetically engineered version of the hormone, in-

troduced in the past ten years to replace insulin derived from animals, has been suspected of masking warning signs of sudden falls in blood sugar levels, or hypoglycaemia. If unrecognised, such drops can lead to patients becoming unconscious. Usually, symptoms such as sweating, shaking and hunger alert them to seek help.

Many patients believe, however, that since they switched from animal insulin, the symptoms no longer occur. Some studies have produced evidence supporting their belief, but the research was criticised by specialists yesterday at a meeting organised in London by the British Diabetic Association.

Harry Keen, chairman of the association's executive council, said: "The evidence against human insulin is very weak, but is causing an enormous amount of anxiety. We want to reassure patients that there is very little foundation for their worries."



Rescue talk: Colin Groves, left, and Colin Dennis, in front of a wheelhouse of the Geevor mine they are trying to save before it floods

## Team fights to save tin mine from the sea

By JOHN YOUNG

AN HISTORIC Cornish tin mine will be lost to the sea forever unless a rescue can be started in the next ten days.

The Geevor mine is spectacularly located on the Land's End peninsula, overlooking

the Atlantic, just outside the village of Pendennis. There is evidence that it was worked at least as early as the 16th century, and it was the scene of the Levant disaster in 1919 when a beam engine collapsed, sending 31 miners

plunging to their deaths. A slump in world tin prices last year led to the end of working 20 months ago, but the mine remained open to tourists. Eric Grayson, then chairman of the owning company, Geevor, said that pump-

ing would continue to prevent flooding but would cease if there were no prospect of the mine becoming profitable again within three years.

At the end of last August, however, the mine was closed to the public and the pumps switched off. Deep below in the 2½ miles of tunnels that run below the fields, the cliffs and the ocean, the water is rising at an estimated four to seven feet a day.

Within ten days at the most it will have reached the critical Fifteen Level, 1,500ft below the surface, at which point the pumps, switches and electrical circuits will be flooded and all chances of saving the mine will vanish. The water could then be expected to continue rising until it reached sea level, about 300ft below the top of the highest shaft.

The attempt to avert that is being led by Colin Groves, landlord of the Tin Mine Tavern in Trevellard near by. He and two friends, Daphne Quarmby and Colin Dennis, who managed the mine's visitor centre until its closure, are seeking a backer to pay the company to switch the pumps back on and eventually to buy the mine. They have attracted an impressive amount of interest and support. English Heritage has acknowledged

the mine's historic importance to Cornish life and its officials visited the site yesterday.

The National Trust has been engaged with the Trevithick Society for Industrial Archaeology in restoring the Levant steam engine, for which it recently received an EC grant. Cornwall county council has indicated that it would be prepared to consider a 100 per cent grant for landscaping. Penwith district council has said it will do everything in its powers to help.

The Queen, who opened a new undersea shaft in 1980, has expressed interest, although the Prince of Wales, who as Duke of Cornwall owns the mineral rights, has yet to comment. Two other tin mines survived until February this year, but Wheal Jane is now closed and South Crofty, although nominally still producing, is not in the same category as Geevor as a tourist attraction.

The mine is the only place in Britain where visitors can descend 1,500ft and the benefits to the local economy from a centre would be considerable. Mr Groves says. He believes that £300,000 would be enough to buy the mine and provide working capital for its development.

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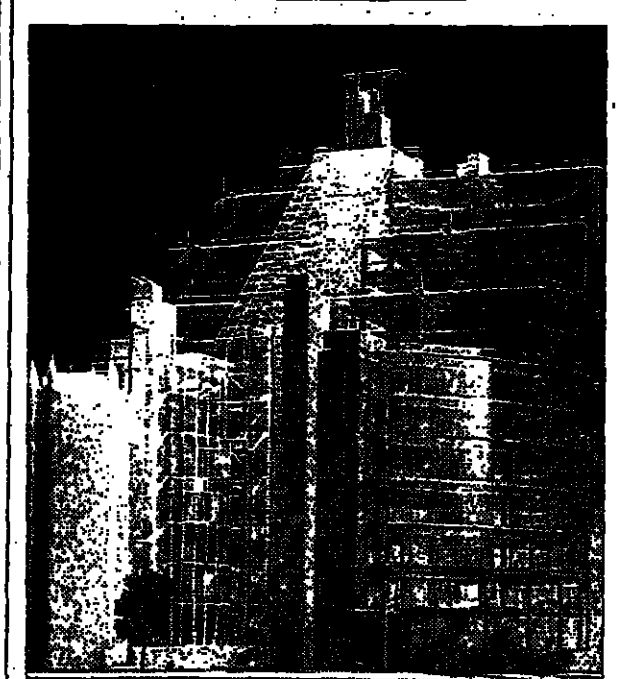
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Glass tower: a model of what may be a sequel to the much-acclaimed, if controversial, Lloyd's building. The Richard Rogers Partnership proposes it as a 340,000 sq ft European headquarters for Daiwa Securities, the Japanese broker. (Marcus Binney writes)

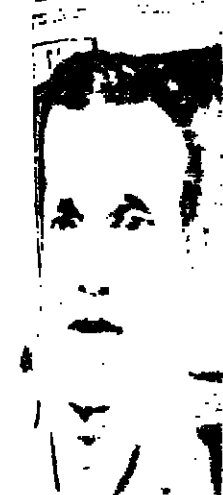
The building in the City would be entered via a grand staircase in Wood Street and would overlook London

Wall. In contrast to Lloyd's battleship exterior, Daiwa's building would be a transparent glass palace. The model suggests that, from many angles, one could look through it to the sky.

Lightness and elegance are dominant characteristics, with an emphasis on smooth surfaces and slender structural supports. Upper floors step back two storeys at a time.

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Imprisoned  
Toronto  
Macoute  
dies in



Lord's defense: Lord's... yesterday

PHILADELPHIA NOTEBOOK

Chuck cheer  
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THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1991



## Imprisoned Tontons Macoute chief dies in coup

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE exiled leader of Haiti, President Aristide, flew to Washington yesterday to appeal to the international community for economic and diplomatic sanctions against the military plotters who ousted his democratically elected government three days ago.

Administration officials here were expected to greet Father Aristide in a public show of support before a formal meeting with him today. As he arrived, the streets of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, crackled with sporadic gunfire after a dusk-to-dawn curfew, while soldiers cleared away barricades erected by his supporters.

The former head of the Tontons Macoute secret police was killed in prison by a soldier during the military takeover, the coup leader said. Brigadier-General Raoul Cedras told French radio that Roger Lafontant, the interior minister under the former dictator, Jean-Claude Duvalier, was killed on Sunday night. Lafontant was serving a life sentence for his role in a coup attempt last January against Father Aristide.

Accusing President Aristide of endangering the country's democratic institutions, General Cedras said the president's move to set up a parallel police force had been a crucial factor in the decision to stage a coup. Father Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest chosen to head the

impoverished Caribbean country seven months ago in a free election vote, was bundled off to Venezuela on Tuesday by the leaders of the military junta. He was scheduled last night to speak at an emergency meeting of the Organisation of American States, which represents 32 Latin American and Caribbean countries, alongside the United States and Canada.

The organisation's foreign ministers were preparing to consider sanctions against the new Haitian government, including a trade embargo and the withdrawal of their ambassadors. But it was unclear whether they would discuss possible military action, as requested by Father Aristide, who is now in exile in Caracas. President Bush said he was "disinclined" to use United States troops to restore the Haitian leader, but he gave no opinion on multi-national action before the OAS meeting. "We've got a big history of American force in this hemisphere," he said, "so we've got to be very careful."

In his first public comments since the US ambassador negotiated for his life earlier this week, Father Aristide called for a United Nations force to help him return to office. The UN security council, however, had not discussed the coup by yesterday on the ground that the coup was an internal matter.

Traditionally, the OAS is wary of the use of force out of national sensitivities about the meddling of foreign powers, especially the United States. Its members, for example, overwhelmingly denounced the American military intervention in Panama in December, 1989, to overthrow the dictator, Manuel Noriega.

"There is undisputed support for Aristide," said an OAS spokesman. He refused to comment on the ministers' views about military action but recalled that the organisation imposed sanctions on Cuba in 1962, including a suspension from OAS activities, when Venezuela accused Havana of attempting to kill its president.



Plotter's defence: Cedras on television yesterday

PHILADELPHIA NOTEBOOK by Peter Stothard

### Chuck checks on the max factor

To max out or not to max out? That is the question facing Lyndon Johnson's son-in-law, Senator Charles Robb, as he struggles to contain the damage to his own presidential prospects from his nude massage (that is as far as it went, he says) with beauty queen and Playboy model Tai Collins.

By one of the many complexities of American political life, it is Senator Robb, of Virginia, who has the biggest role in how hard the Democrats will fight to win this year's only Senate race, in Pennsylvania. Senator Robb controls the committee which allocates central Democrat funds for the contest between Harris Wofford, a former John F. Kennedy aide, and the Republican favourite, Richard Thornburgh, who recently resigned as attorney-general.

If Senator Robb spends the maximum legal amount on Mr Wofford's behalf, \$983,917.90 (about \$633,200), and Mr Wofford wins, the embarrassed Virginian will be a hero. If he "maxes out" and Mr Wofford is massively defeated, Senator Robb will be accused of wasting money that could have been better spent in election year, 1992.

If he holds back the money and Mr Wofford is narrowly defeated, the name of Chuck Robb will be even more muddled than it has been by this year's sex and drug party allegations. At the moment he is offering \$500,000. As Philadelphia Democrats ruefully remark, "half-maxing is what he said he did with Miss Collins".

One of Philadelphia's biggest centres for "shaking down" big-time political contributors is the Rittenhouse hotel, which dominates the central square where aristocrats lived when the city was both great and British. Last week at the hotel, they launched Philadelphia's first British-

American chamber of commerce in order to try to patch up relations.

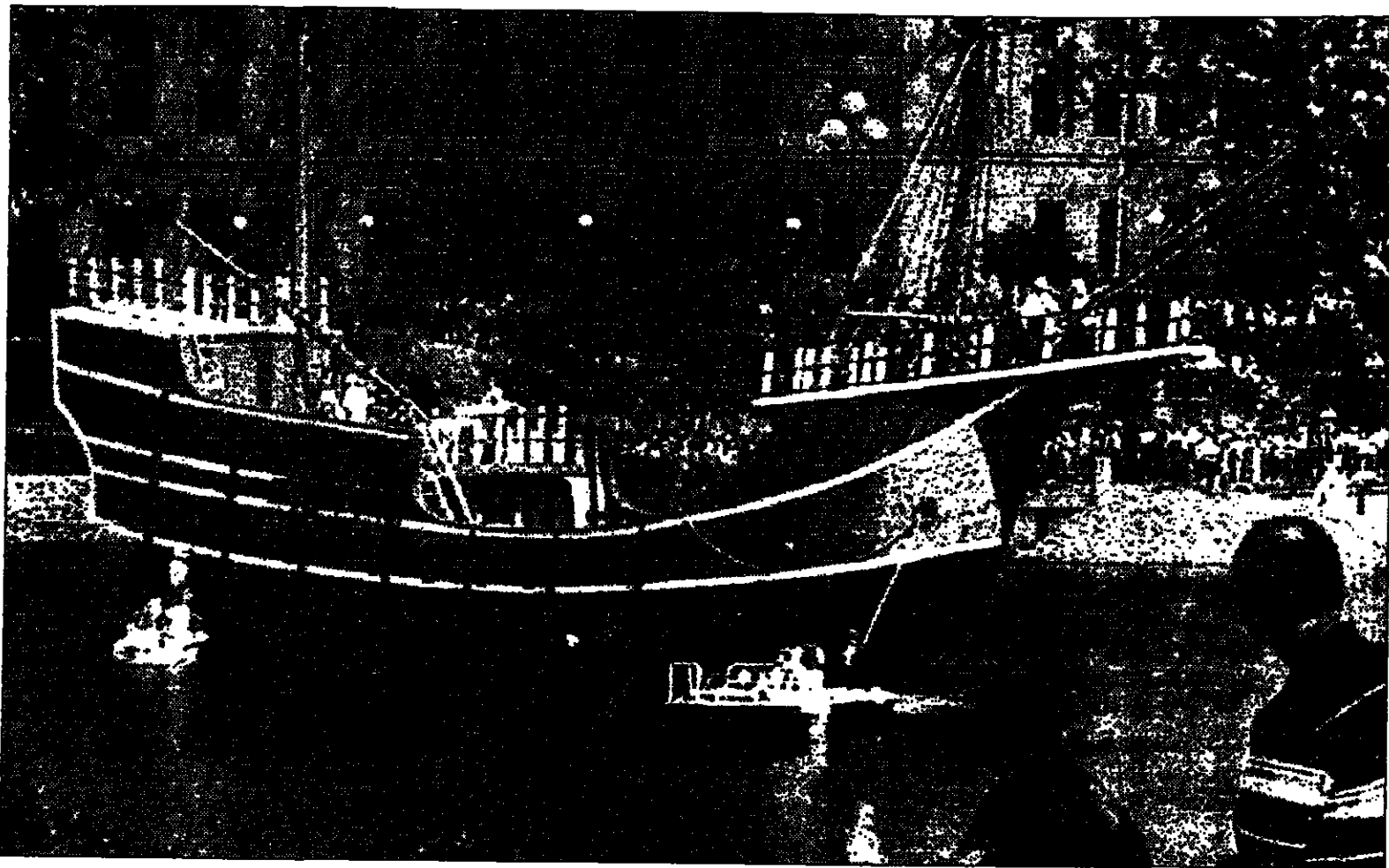
A special English breakfast of sausages, bacon and kippers was served to the 50 representatives of British Airways, Smith Kline Beecham and assorted law firms. The British side, led by lawyer chairman Clive Anderson, reminisced about kippery mornings in their prep-schools. The Americans soberly contemplated their cholesterol counters.

The breakfasters were gathered to discuss the prospects for a British general election and the impact of a would-be Labour government upon trade policy. Confusing? Not compared with the Philadelphia race for mayor.

Until July, the Republican candidate was the former city police chief, Frank Rizzo, who many blacks saw as racist and many whites as an angel of law and order. When Rizzo died, the choice was passed to the last old-style Republican city boss in America, William Meehan.

He named J. Egan, a comfortable choice for Republicans who recalled two past losing mayoral campaigns by John Egan in 1983 and 1987. Mr Meehan's candidate, however, was Joseph Egan, a previously obscure property magnate. The well-known John Egan was, instead, to be Joseph's campaign manager, a job he later gave up, citing conflicts of interest.

All this is unlikely, however, to help the Republicans. Philadelphia's grandiose city hall, topped by the seven-times life-size statue of its first proprietor and governor, William Penn, today houses one of the country's most bankrupt administrations. The Democrats are likely to have spent more than \$4 million by the time their candidate is elected to keep their party's hold on the ruins.



Voyage of rediscovery: a replica of Santa Maria, the flagship of Christopher Columbus in which he sailed to the New World in 1492, anchored yesterday in Columbus, Ohio, the city which bears the

name of the discoverer of America. Three cranes lowered the 95-ton ship into the Scioto river, and two boats towed it to its permanent mooring on the opposite bank. It will become part of the city's 500th

anniversary celebration of Columbus' voyage to the New World. The 98ft ship's hull was built at a shipyard in New York, and shipped to Columbus in halves. The boat will be christened on Columbus

Day, October 14, at the start of ten days' festivities launching the city's Columbus celebration. The building of the second Santa Maria cost a local non-profit-making group \$1.5 million (£260,000). (AP)

## Aquino gives US 36-month notice

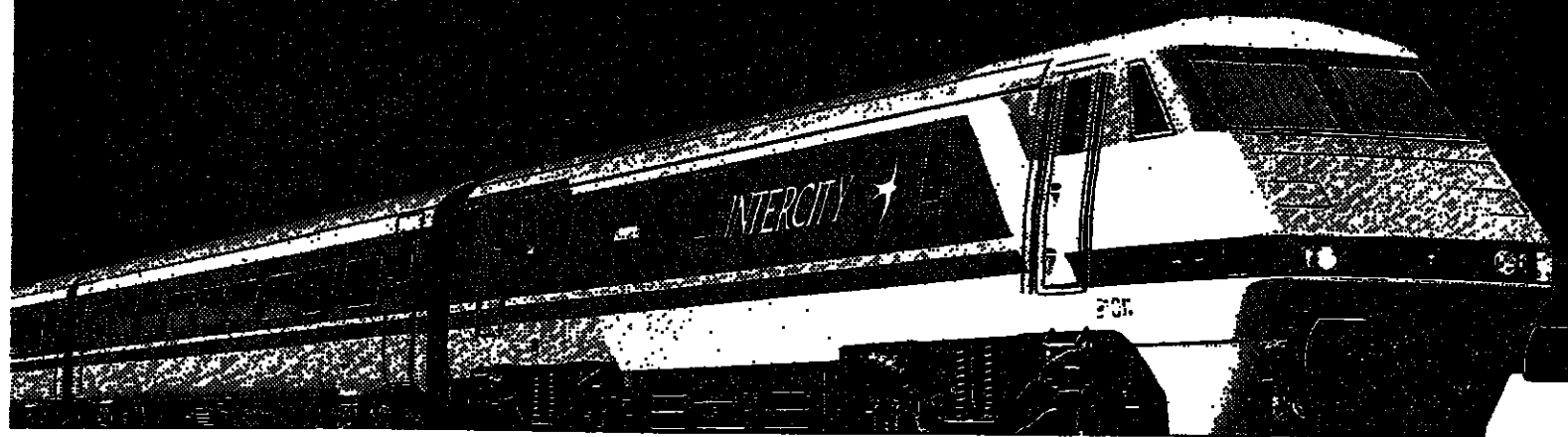
FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

THE United States will be given three years to withdraw its forces from the Philippines, President Aquino announced yesterday. She said that the US embassy was informed of her decision and that Washington need not pay rent during the 36-month period.

"Today I have decided that the Philippines government will negotiate and execute an executive agreement with the US government for the withdrawal of US military forces within a period not exceeding three years," Mrs Aquino told reporters. A US embassy spokesman said: "We have taken note of the president's statement and we have referred it to Washington." US officials had said Washington would be amenable to a three-year rent-free withdrawal.

The Philippines Senate last month voted 12-11 to reject a new treaty allowing the Americans to use Subic Bay naval base for ten years at a cost of \$2.2 billion (£1.25 billion). Mrs Aquino had wanted to hold a referendum, but desisted after legal advice.

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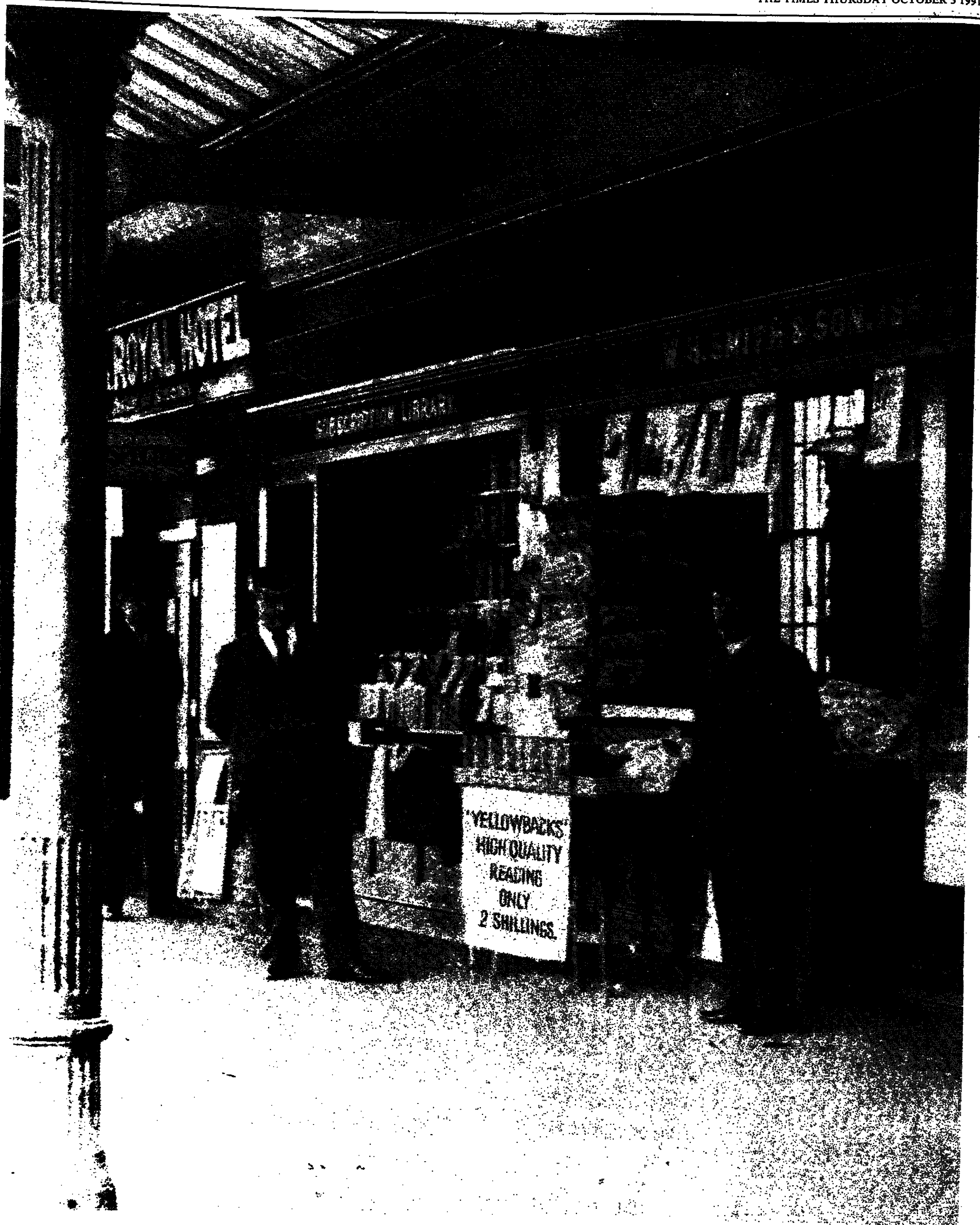
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investigated

Russo attack

Mari sacked

Defence talks

Forbidden kiss

Belgian host  
upsets Euro



## Troops return to looting as Mobutu clings on to power

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HOPES that Zaire's new prime minister, Etienne Tshisekedi, would be able to form an effective government and take over from President Mobutu dwindled yesterday after a political comeback by the head of state. Zaire's national constitutional conference had been due to open yesterday but failed to do so.

As the president and prime minister battled over who would have real political control after a shaky power-sharing agreement announced on Monday, Zairean troops went on another looting spree, carrying off booty from shops in Kinshasa's central Victory Square in broad daylight.

Mr Tshisekedi, appointed by Mr Mobutu to lead a new government after last week's looting by troops in which 117 people died, denounced Mr Mobutu as a monster yesterday and said: "I am prime minister by the people's will. I am not Mr Mobutu's prime minister." He was preparing his speech to the national conference where he insists he will be sworn in, dismissing Mr Mobutu's demand that the ceremony take place at the parliament, which is packed with members of the president's Popular Movement for the Revolution (MPR).

But Mr Mobutu, who has ruled Zaire for 26 years and survived two secessionist uprisings in the 1970s, is boxing clever again. On Tuesday night, as diplomats and foreign observers in Kinshasa were finally convinced by Mr Tshisekedi's insistence that he was prime minister, head of the armed forces and in charge of foreign affairs, Mr Mobutu refused to cede control over key portfolios.

Appearing on television, he insisted that the only deal struck — and not yet signed by himself or opposition politicians after three days' intensive talks — dated back to July and involved equal power-sharing. He also insisted that the MPR would defend the interests of the younger generation at the conference.

Faith in Mr Tshisekedi has been eroded by his erroneous claims that Mr Mobutu had accepted that the presidency would be purely honorary.

But the new prime minister hit back yesterday. "I have always considered [Mobutu] to be a human monster ... without law, morals, principles ... who is ready to do anything to further his interests," he told Belgian radio. "My government will quite simply ignore Mr Mobutu ... I do not intend to share power with anyone, whoever it may be."

The MPR and opposition parties, led by the Union for Democracy and Social Progress under Mr Tshisekedi, are now deadlocked.

Diplomats fear that Zaire will continue to drift without a government or foreign aid. "I hope to God that Tshisekedi can pull it off. If he does not, this place will blow up again, and worse than last week," said one diplomat.



Mobutu continuing to box clever for survival

## Togo coup plot to be investigated

Lome — A parliamentary commission will investigate a military coup attempt in which at least six people were killed, Togo government sources said.

About 50 renegade soldiers seized broadcasting stations on Tuesday but then returned to barracks on the orders of the military president, Gnassingbe Eyadema. Lome was calm as Joseph Koffigoh, the prime minister, met defence officials to discuss the assault on his government, which aims to end 24 years of military dictatorship. No arrests have been made, but reports said Narcisse Djoua, a dismissed army officer, may be implicated. (Reuters/AP)

## Renamo attack

Maputo — Renamo rebels killed 57 people in an attack on a village inside a negotiated ceasefire zone in the Limpopo valley, in southern Mozambique, and fled with 100 captured peasants, according to Major Paulo Lapsosone, the local military commander. (Reuters)

## Maori sacked

Wellington — Jim Bolger, the New Zealand prime minister, sacked Winston Peters, the Maori affairs minister and sole cabinet Maori, replacing him with Doug Kidd, a non-Maori. The move, which was condemned by several Maori leaders, followed a campaign by Mr Peters against government economic policies.

## Defence talks

Paris — France is discussing a defence agreement with Kuwait, Tarek Razouqi, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Paris, said. The proposal was similar to accords reached with Washington and under discussion with Britain. (Reuters)

## Forbidden kiss

Milan — Italian censors have banned an advertisement by the fashion retailer, Benetton, showing a nun kissing a priest on the mouth. (Reuters)

## Belgian hostility upsets Eurocrats

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

QUARRELS between landlords and tenants are as old as houses, but in the "capital of Europe" the old friction now has a new twist. The city's largest tenant, the European Community, alleges its landlord, Belgium, is guilty of harassment.

Eurocrats, who happened to be on strike yesterday, are being spat on in public. Stickers are appearing on lamp-posts showing European flags, in Flemish, attack "Europarassites". Flemish demonstrators marched through Brussels this spring to protest at the invasion of villages outside Brussels by foreigners who have come to work at, or near, the EC's headquarters.

The EC's own pollsters asked samples in each of the community's 12 states whether they would be sorry, relieved or indifferent if they were told that the EC was to be wound up. More than half the Belgians (54 per cent) said they would be "indifferent" — this from people who are also strongly in favour of uniting Europe and think EC membership is good for Belgium. Belgians like the EC, but more and

more of them do not want it on their doorstep.

But the EC does not just have to lie and suffer this growing hostility. The Eurocrats have weapons of their own. This week Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, the Portuguese ex-fisheries minister who manages the EC's 14,000 officials, told *La Libre Belgique* that the EC and its high-spending staff would leave Brussels if the Belgians did not stop being so hostile. "There are obviously alternatives," he said.

This is not an idle threat. EC governments have never been able to decide where to place their various institutions. The glossy block outside Luxembourg which houses the European court of justice, the vast building site which houses the commission and council of ministers in central Brussels, the strawberry-pink palace for the European parliament in Strasbourg, are all "provisional". The EC governments could change their locations on a whim.

The Belgians have a double fear: of losing the income which the Eurocrats bring and, worse, losing the EC's headquarters to France.



Parking find: a 12.5-ton, 19th-century cannon is lifted near Hong Kong's Wanchai district where it was unearthed in an underground car-park development

## Vietnam agrees to forced returns

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

VIETNAM has agreed to accept the forced repatriation of thousands of boat people from Hong Kong, a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said in Geneva yesterday.

The move opens the way for the first refugees, who refuse to return to Vietnam from several South-East Asian countries and Hong Kong, to be flown home within weeks, diplomats and refugee workers said. Silvana Foa, a commissioner spokeswoman, said Hanoi had "offered to take back the Vietnamese economic migrants determined not to be refugees". She added that the UNHCR "knows about this offer, but we will not be involved in this operation".

Mandatory repatriation had been the main focus of five days of talks between officials from Vietnam, Britain, Hong Kong and the United States that ended in Hanoi last Friday. The UNHCR was an observer. America has in the past repeatedly voiced strong opposition to forced refugee repatriation.

## New demands by Lebanese chiefs dash hostage deal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN TYRE

FROM New York, Tel Aviv or even Tehran the closing chapters of the hostage saga might suggest a happy, if predictable ending, with the gradual release of the remaining Western, Lebanese and Israeli prisoners in a drawn-out process conducted through the United Nations.

But here in this strip of border territory between Israel and Lebanon, the conclusion is far from complete, as local chieftains attempt at the last minute to attach their own conditions on the multinational trade in human life which must pass through their hands. Yesterday two rival Lebanese leaders, one a leading fundamentalist cleric in Tyre, the other the head of Israel's surrogate militia, attempted to set their own demands.

General Antoine Lahd, the leader of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army, said that he would not contemplate any further releases of the hundreds of his countrymen detained at his detention centre in the village of Khiam unless he in return received

information about eight of his missing men.

His comments were the mirror image of Tyre's leading fundamentalist Shia Muslim, Sheikh Ali Yassin, a close associate of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed group whose members are held by Israel and who in turn are behind the abduction of Westerners in Beirut. He said: "As long as Israel holds our land and our people any solution will take a long time. We do not want a situation where all the Israelis are free but Lahd is still able to occupy our lands," he said.

● New York: America has asked governments to keep open the final days of this month for a possible Middle East peace conference, causing the Paris conference on Cambodia scheduled for October 30 and 31 to be brought forward (James Bone writes). Diplomats said tentative US plans to hold the Middle East peace conference at the end of the month meant that the signing of the UN-brokered Cambodian peace accord would now take place in Paris on October 23.

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# Federal war machine bears down on splendours of Dubrovnik

THE battering ram of Yugoslavia's civil war threatened to breach the medieval walled city of Dubrovnik yesterday, as fighting closed in on one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

The perfectly preserved baroque and renaissance splendour of Dubrovnik was surrounded by federal forces and cut off from the rest of the country as the army severed power, water, communications and roads to the city.

The city walls, up to 18 feet thick, a mile and quarter in circumference and among the most imposing fortifications in the world, are now charged with trying to protect a treasure-store of churches, museums and palaces interlaced with secretive stairway-alleyways. The main street, the Ploča, was built over a sea channel which once separated the city,

and its smooth stone paving has been buffed to a deep shine by centuries of scuffing feet.

Among Dubrovnik's most cherished belongings are the Sponza Palace, a former customs house which now houses archives and the Museum of the Socialist Revolution; the Dominican church, which houses a Titian painting; and the baroque cathedral which is home to a collection of Byzantine gold and silver. All these are now under threat.

The federal blockade has isolated a strip of land where the port is located, running 50 miles along the coast from Gruda, near the Montenegrin border, north to Slano. The city was peppered by grenade and bomb fragments during the fighting and city officials have pleaded for international help. "Grenades hit churches,

The tourists have fled. A few young residents promenade in designer battle fatigues as Yugoslav forces surround the historic city. Eve-Ann Prentice reports

hotels, an airport, yacht marina, petrol stations, the Adriatic highway, family homes and other facilities," the radio said. Beleguered monitors sent in by the European Community have been forced to flee the Argentina hotel just outside the city walls after it was hit by bomb fragments, according to Hina, the Croatian news agency.

Wooden shields and scaffolding have been erected in an attempt to guard the city's heart, but the ramparts that once offered asylum to Richard the Lionheart stood naked to attack; the authorities said

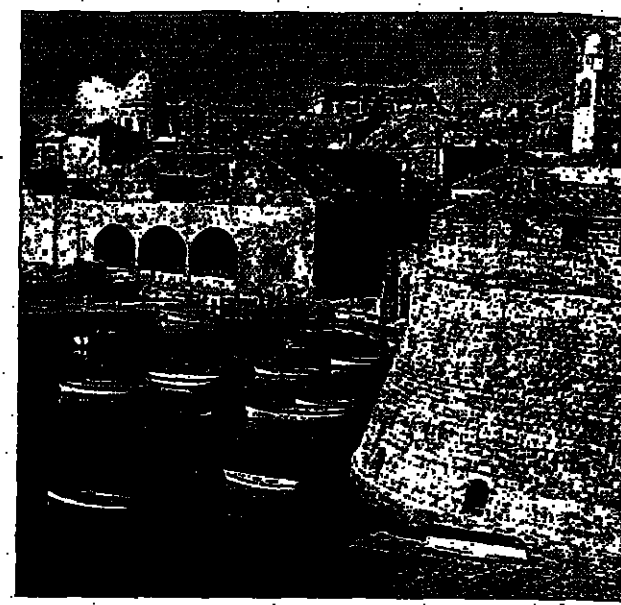
it was too difficult and costly to try to protect everything. Dubrovnik was founded in the 7th century and was ruled by Byzantium after the fall of Rome. The city now in peril from the ravages of civil war managed to find all foreign powers between the 9th and 12th centuries, and kept much of its independence for hundreds of years through skillful treaties and the payment of some lip service to Venice and the Ottoman empire as it played a key trading role between East and West.

Dubrovnik's mercantile achievements prompted the poetic word for an adventurous merchant ship, argosy, taken from the Italian name for the city, Ragusa. An earthquake in 1667 destroyed the city's prosperity for nearly 150 years, until the Napoleonic wars saw it rise again as the only neutral Mediterranean state between 1800 and 1805. Napoleon eventually subjugated Dubrovnik in 1808 and the Congress of Vienna bestowed the city on Austria. It became a part of Yugoslavia in 1918. Dubrovnik was abandoned to its fate in June by the thousands of tourists who usually throng its polished streets. More than 90 of the city's hundred or so hotels have closed. Even those hotels which stayed open, such as the Argentina, have been doled out in darkness as management have sought to save

money on the electricity which reportedly is now cut off. However, small crowds do emerge at dusk — mostly young sons and daughters of rich locals showing off their designer clothes or, more sinisterly, their stashed and as yet unsold designer battle fatigues.

The mayor is desperate. "The fighting and the suffering come closer and closer," Pero Poljanec said. "Two relatively moderate commanders of the so-called federal navy have been stripped of their commands and are now in prison. They have been replaced by extremists who are committed to the idea of annexing this part of Croatia ... we have never been in greater danger."

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 16  
Leading article, page 17



Tranquillity in the firing line: Dubrovnik has been transformed from tourist attraction to strategic prize

## Conflict puts loyalty of Yugoslav army to test

FROM ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

ON PAPER, the Croats would not stand a chance against the Yugoslav army if there were all-out war. The official strength of the federal army is 180,000 officers and men, while the Croatian national guard has at best 70,000.

The Yugoslav air force has more than 400 combat aircraft — including 130 MiG21 interceptors and 150 Galeb fighters — giving it unchallenged command of the air. The army also has one of the biggest tank forces in southern Europe, with more than 700, admittedly old, T54s and more than 100 modern T74s.

The Croats have no combat planes and only 120 captured tanks. They have light anti-

aircraft guns and some reports say they have bought Stinger missiles. If true, they have so far been kept in reserve.

The military picture, however, is not so straightforward. The loyalty of the army, comprising about 42,000 professional officers and 138,000 conscripts, is under strain.

Serbs dominate the officer corps: 103 generals, or 70 per cent, are Serbs or ethnically similar Montenegrins or define themselves as Yugoslavs. For the past month the army has been weeding out non-Serbs from the general staff and the middle-ranking officer corps.

There are signs, too, that not all the Serb generals support Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president. A group of senior commanders known as "modernisers" support General Veljko Kadijevic, the defence minister, and seem to believe in a reformed federal Yugoslavia because only such a united state could support the existence of a large army.

Over the summer, General Kadijevic said that Yugoslavia no longer exists. His aim now appears to be to save what he can of the army, if necessary by waging war with Croatia. The lifting of sieges of army barracks in Croatia has become, for him, a matter of pride rather than a step towards a conquest of Croatia.

Not so for the influential General Blagoje Adzic, his chief of staff, who promised in July that the army "would carry things through to the end". It is unclear how the officer corps would splinter if there were an all-out war.

Serbs account for 42 per cent of the army conscripts, Montenegrins for more than 9 per cent and "Yugoslavs" for 10 per cent. The remainder is actively hostile to a territorial war. Alija Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, has been urging Bosnians to desert or dodge the draft. Croats and Slovenes have been deserting in droves.

An intake of conscripts 12 days ago was less than complete. Even reserves from Serbia and Serbian-dominated areas have been refusing to join up. Some prefer to serve in the Serbian national guard of the opposition leader, Vuk Draskovic, since they view the conflict as a communist war.

## Belgrade warning on energy

FROM REUTERS IN BELGRADE

THE Yugoslav government, struggling to control an economy battered by weeks of fighting, said yesterday that the country's energy reserves were dangerously low.

The federal administration said: "The reserves of energy raw materials, especially liquid fuels, have fallen to a critical level which threatens the functioning of the country's power supply system." It called for the protection of power plants, saying their destruction could create an ecological catastrophe.

The army has threatened to destroy Croatia's strategic industries, including power supplies, if Croatian forces continue to attack federal soldiers. Industrial production in the first eight months of the year was down 17.3 per cent, year-on-year inflation soared to almost 130 per cent in September, and the number of jobless has jumped to about 20 per cent.

Croatia adopted its own measures yesterday to help alleviate the consequences of the conflict by imposing a 4.5 per cent income tax levy. It banned exports and commodity trade outside its territory.



Fruits of militancy: a Romanian boy in the pit town of Petrosani showing off apples made available after coalminers halted their Bucharest protests and ended their strike

## Georgia rebels pledge defiance

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN TELAVI

ARMED rebels vowed yesterday to defy Georgian government forces in Tbilisi, where shooting was reported near the main television station. The amnesty offered to the opposition by Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the president, ends at midnight today.

An armed group fired on a Soviet military train carrying rockets and other supplies for troops garrisoned in Georgia, injuring at least four people. A government spokesman said rebels had tried to plant explosives on the train while it was in a suburb of Tbilisi. On Sunday an explosion damaged the entrance of the rebel

held television station and shooting followed. Mr Gamsakhurdia has not openly threatened to attack the rebels when the amnesty expires but one of his aides, Giorgi Shengelia, hinted at an eventual armed response.

"The force of the Georgian people would be used to end the political deadlock," he said. "I cannot give a guarantee for the future but for now we do not plan to use the military there."

He described the rebels, who include national guard units, as members of the intelligentsia "who fared well under the Soviet authorities" and as privileged students. Tengiz Sigua, a rebel leader and former prime minister, said the television station would soon be attacked. "We were prepared for provocation yesterday and we will be prepared today," he said. "We will not be surprised if they launch a strike."

The rebels hope they can set up a television aerial quickly to spread their message. The existing antenna is held by the government. "The government is psychologically weak because right is on our side," a rebel said.

Mr Roman had been prime minister since the bloody overthrow of the Stalinist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, in December 1989. He introduced vital laws to underpin an economy based on the free market in a radical break with four decades of communist central planning. Prices had been almost fully liberalised. The national currency was close to convertibility and thousands of state enterprises had been prepared for sale under one of East Europe's boldest privatisation laws. But prices have soared by 200 per cent in the past ten months, partly explaining last week's rampage.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 16

## Romania leader ponders cabinet

FROM REUTERS IN BUCHAREST

ROMANIA's new prime minister began looking for people to fill his cabinet yesterday and said his priority would be to tackle the impoverished economy. Teodor Stolojan, aged 47, was named prime minister after riots led by miners forced the resignation of Petre Roman last week.

A former finance minister, Mr Stolojan said he would take into account the views of all parties expressed in coalition talks led by President Iliescu in the past three days. "Problem number one is to manage the imbalances in an economy with almost non-existent resources," Mr Stolojan told Romspre, the state news agency.

The new cabinet must be approved by parliament, where Mr Roman's National Salvation Front holds 65 per cent of the seats. Mr Stolojan, who is not a member of the front, was finance minister as an independent until he quit in March, complaining that measures to liberalise prices had been diluted. He later headed an agency managing Mr Roman's ambitious privatisation programme.

No time limit has been announced for him to name his cabinet. He said: "It will not be easy, bearing in mind the priorities of the moment and the problems which have recently appeared."

Mr Iliescu announced Mr Roman's resignation last Thursday while 8,000 coalminers from western Romania rioted in Bucharest, demanding the prime minister's removal. Mr Roman effectively denied having resigned but he and fellow leaders of the front later asked Mr Iliescu to appoint Mr Stolojan.

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Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 16

## Pankin promises dramatic reply to US arms cuts

By BRUCE CLARK AND MICHAEL EVANS

BORIS Pankin, the Soviet foreign minister, has promised a "dramatic response" to President Bush's sweeping initiative last week to reduce nuclear weapons.

Questioned before leaving New York, where he was attending the United Nations General Assembly, Mr Pankin said Soviet experts would be discussing disarmament proposals in Washington next Wednesday and Thursday and would have an "opportunity to provide a more detailed response". He reiterated the Soviet desire to ban nuclear testing and said a high-level delegation from the European Community and the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations would survey Soviet economic needs at a meeting in Moscow on October 14.

As Mr Pankin spoke, a senior defence official said Soviet military spending is at least three times higher than has been publicly admitted. He also identified arms industry chiefs as the main instigators of the August coup attempt in Moscow.

The assertion was made in the respected liberal weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* by Pyotr Korotkevich, described as the father of Moscow's top-secret effort to match the American "Star Wars" programme. Mr Korotkevich said the Kremlin's annual expenditure on defence was 300 billion roubles (£30 billion at official tourist rates) and not 96 billion roubles as stated in official figures presented to the Soviet parliament.

He said that of the eight conspirators who briefly toppled President Gorbachev in August, the prime mover was Oleg Baklanov, an arms industry boss and deputy head of the national defence council. Mr Baklanov symbolised the alarm felt among parts of the defence establishment over proposals to rationalise the armed forces.

According to Mr Korotkevich, these proposals would have left many senior generals redundant and ended the separate existence of several of the most prestigious regional commands and divisions, including those engaged in anti-missile defences. He poured scorn on the Soviet "Star Wars" project, saying the Kremlin leadership was prepared to spend "hundreds of billions of roubles" on a project whose main purpose was not to destroy incoming missiles but merely to observe them in time for the leader-

ship to take flight — "purely and simply to give the politico time to get down the bunker".

In the West, military and intelligence sources said the proposals put forward for converting the four million-strong Soviet armed forces into comparatively slim-line professional services may prove an impossible dream. The aim of cutting down to about 2.5 million personnel cannot be achieved by the target date of 1994, unless the pruning is carried out ruthlessly, the sources said.

Western military experts believe that, despite the reformist zeal at the top of the Soviet general staff, the inertia which lies at the heart of the military bureaucracy will delay the whole process.

## Police put down jail smog riot

ATHENS — Police fired scores of rounds of tear gas and fought their way into a cell block at Korydallos prison in Athens to put down a riot by prisoners. The unrest started on Tuesday night when guards forced the inmates back into their cells despite stifling heat and heavy smog.

The prisoners seized the cell block and set mattresses and bedding alight after guards ordered them to return from an exercise yard to their cells, saying it was now officially winter and they must go in an hour earlier regardless of the heat and smog. (Reuters)

## Britons charged

BERLIN — Five British skinheads have been charged with grievous bodily harm after wounding a young man in a knife attack. They belong to a London rock band, Screwdriver, which came to Cottbus for a neo-Nazi rally, the chief prosecutor of the eastern city said. A German skinhead has also been charged with grievous bodily harm. (Reuters)

## Driver's reprisal

PARIS — A woman driver who ran down and killed a teenage scooter rider who snatched her handbag at traffic lights was convicted of manslaughter and given a one-year suspended jail sentence. (Reuters)

## German unity anniversary

# East settles for tea-time without sympathy

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

GERMANY celebrates the first anniversary of its unification today in the time-honoured tradition of its national holidays: by closing everything down and staying at home.

The shops and most restaurants will be shut, the streets deserted. Those who had not been well organised enough to get in the essentials for the inevitable coffee and cake sessions will have to do without. But then, this being Germany, they will all have thought of it well in advance. East and West Germans now share the same holidays. October 3, the Day of Unity, has replaced June 17, a bank holiday in the West since 1953 to mark the East Berlin uprising quelled by Soviet tanks.

Easterners are happy to have gained several days of holiday in the past year as they are now included in the church feast days, such as

Easter Monday and All Souls' Day, which were previously ignored. However, they show little regret for the passing of the October 7 main holiday in the old East German calendar as the anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic in 1949. It was last marked in 1989.

It makes little difference what Germans are celebrating, the form is always the same. Eastern families sat down to the same modest tea-time treats every October 7 as their Western cousins on June 17. Then, of course, no one would have dreamed that they would so soon enjoy the same holidays. The

image of millions of German families all sitting down separately on their respective sides of the no longer extant border to mark their unity probably reflects accurately the state of non-integration.

Since unification, the initial enthusiasm for rediscovering lost relatives and old friends has paled. The new

reserve applies right across the social spectrum. T-shirts bearing the message "I want my wall back" are still selling well on both sides of the Brandenburg Gate. But then the wall is back already, a new barrier not of stone but of indifference to those on the other side of it.

rapidly worsening housing shortage. Much of the predictable pattern of West German life has been undermined by the attempt to absorb an alien system too rapidly. So the Ossis are prime targets for abuse, and this is making real unification more difficult.

Leading article, page 17

## Westerners nurse hangover of togetherness

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

A recent poll in *Der Spiegel* found that 84 per cent of Ossis saw themselves as second-class citizens while "Wessis" believed Ossis "live well without doing much". For the Ossis, the Wessis was an arrogant know-all ruled by an oppressive bureaucracy, more interested in fast cars than human relationships. For the Wessi,

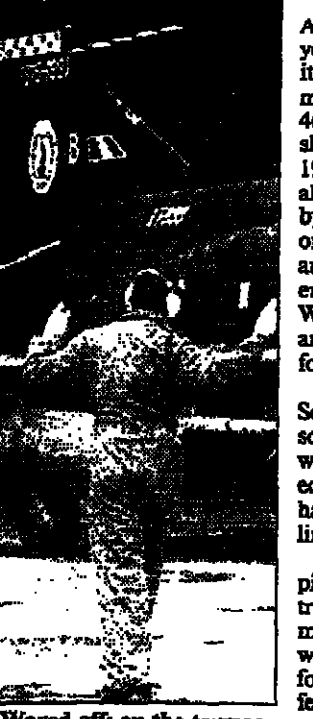
the Ossi was pot-bellied, lacking in initiative and naive. Wessi resentment is largely economic. Thousands had to cancel or cut back trips abroad because of tax rises and surcharges imposed to fund unification. Inflation has climbed close to 5 per cent, interest rates have risen and trade has gone into the red. There is a

reserve applies right across the social spectrum. T-shirts bearing the message "I want my wall back" are still selling well on both sides of the Brandenburg Gate. But then the wall is back already, a new barrier not of stone but of indifference to those on the other side of it.

Leading article, page 17

## RAF scrambles for last chance to hunt bandits at 12 o'clock

FROM IAN MURRAY AT RAF WILDENRATH



Waved off on the tarmac in Wildenrath yesterday

AN ERA ended here at noon yesterday as the RAF started its last "scramble" over Germany to mark the end of its 46-year role in policing the skies of Europe. Since April 1945, at least one fighter had always been on 24-hour standby, armed and ready to take off in five minutes to intercept any unauthorised aircraft entering Western airspace. With the end of the Cold War and the cutback in British forces, that job is over.

Two Phantom FGR2s of 19 Squadron made the final scramble. Formed in 1915, it was the first unit to be equipped with Spitfires and has been part of Nato's frontline defences since 1977.

"We look up to the Spitfire pilots and we follow on their tradition," said Wing Commander Nick Spiller as he waited for the klaxon to blare for the last time. "The difference was they knew they would have to fight when the klaxon went." The pilots on

standby in the last days of the Cold War spent a 24-hour shift in a hut beside their fighters' hardened aircraft shelter, watching videos, reading, studying and sleeping. Virtually all their operational sorties have been to intercept nothing more dangerous than "puddle jumpers", light aircraft which have blundered into the wrong bit of sky. Now even that job is over.

"It's sad really, just like losing a friend," the wing commander said. "Of course I'm delighted the Cold War is over, but there have to be regrets. This job has been a driving force for the squadron and kept us on our toes. It adds some excitement to the day. Now we don't know where the next threat is coming from. We will have to vary our training to reflect a more worldwide scene." In the past 26 years, 19 Squadron made 250 operational scrambles.

Letters, page 17



# Who will we thank for the memory?

Scientists may be close to perfecting drugs to restore fading memory, Jeremy Laurance reports

This summer, Glaxo, the multi-national drug company, announced a remarkable discovery. In preliminary tests, its new drug ondansetron was shown to increase memory in a group of people who had complained of becoming increasingly forgetful. Newspaper reports described it as a "revolutionary treatment".

The same week, the BBC television programme *Horizon* reported that up to 100,000 healthy individuals in the United States were now estimated to be taking "smart drugs", also known as "cognitive enhancers", every day, to boost mental capacity.

Is there anything in all of this? Glaxo certainly hopes so. Millions of people, worldwide, suffer problems with their memory. If the mind-boosting properties of its new drug are confirmed, Glaxo would see its share price rocket.

Memory is the key to learning, the workhorse of the intellect. The promise of a pill to boost memory is seductive because it is effortless. More than 160 cognitive enhancers are said to be under development. Many drugs already available, and prescribed for other conditions, — such as cocaine, amphetamines and hyaline — have recently been "discovered" to boost mental performance.

British specialists are dismissive of their value. "These drugs have been subjected to many trials, yet they are still unproven," says Professor Gordon Wilcock of the University of Bristol, an expert on the effects of ageing on the brain. Many so-called "smart drugs" are simple vasodilators, which widen the blood vessels, increasing the flow of blood to the brain.

"But if the blood supply is normal there is no reason to suppose a vasodilator will have any effect," says Dr Jill Livingstone, a senior lecturer in the psychiatry of the elderly at University College hospital, London.

Ondansetron, however, could be different. Scientists are now confident that it, or a similar drug, will be developed within the next decade to help those whose memories are failing. The billion dollar question is how many will it help? Only the demented? Or the much larger group of the merely forgetful? Or might a compound emerge which could boost "normal" memory, to become a genuine "smart" drug?

The story of the memory drugs dates from a crucial discovery made in 1976. Scientists investigating Alzheimer's disease — the most common cause of dementia in the elderly, the earliest symptom of which is memory loss — discovered that it was linked with the level of the neurotransmitter (brain chemical) acetylcholine in the brain. The greater the loss of acetylcholine, the worse the dementia. If the acetylcholine level in the brains of sufferers had fallen too low, then restoring it might reverse the condition.

The problem, however, was how to give the acetylcholine. It cannot be given directly because it is digested in the gut or broken down by enzymes in the blood (a problem most "smart" drugs are not smart enough to overcome). For more than a decade researchers looked for an answer. Then, in 1987, the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported that a group of American researchers had given a new drug called tacrine to 14 patients in an advanced state of dementia. The results were dramatic: sufferers previously unable to wash themselves could now play a round of golf.

The discovery was hailed in the medical journals as the most significant medical advance of the decade. Tacrine would change the face of Western society, it was claimed, by defeating the depredations of old age.

However, trials of the drug in France, Britain and Australia were disappointing. Tacrine did boost mental performance, but the improvement was limited and

did not last. Dementia is characterised by a progressive deterioration, and the drug could not prevent this. "It is a way of buying a year or two," says Professor Raymond Levy, who conducted one of the most careful trials at the Institute of Psychiatry in London. Some of his patients have been on the drug for three years but, after gaining an initial benefit, they declined again after 18 months.

Tacrine is also being investigated, along with other drugs, by Professor Wilcock at the University of Bristol. "I have, as a minimum target, helping patients regain six months of life — putting them back to where they were six months ago," he says.

In Sheffield, Dr Harvey Sagar, a consultant neurologist at the Royal Hallamshire hospital, is investigating physostigmine, a different drug, which operates in a similar way to tacrine.

"The critical difference is that we are using it in a slow release form, so there is much more of a chance of getting a long-lasting effect," he says. A drug derived from physostigmine has also been used in trials at Guy's hospital, London. Despite the disappointments, all the specialists are agreed on one thing: that an effective treatment for Alzheimer's disease is within reach. But will such a treatment also help prevent the ordinary memory loss associated with ageing — and even provide the key to a "super memory" in the young?

Getting answers to these questions requires a basic grasp of how the drugs work. When a message is transmitted from one brain cell to the next an electrical impulse travels down the nerve fibre and has to cross a tiny gap — the synapse — to reach the next nerve fibre. It does this by stimulating the release of a neurotransmitter such as acetylcholine, molecules of which travel across the synapse and lock on to receptors on the next nerve fibre, switching it on. These receptors then release the used acetylcholine — which is broken down by an enzyme called cholinesterase — and await the next chemical messenger.

Physostigmine and tacrine both work by blocking the action of the cholinesterase to prevent the breakdown of the acetylcholine, so that it can be re-used. This effectively increases the quantity of acetylcholine — and boosts memory. But experience with the treatment of the muscle disorder myasthenia gravis, in which there is a similar defect of nerve conduction, suggests there is a limit to how high the level can be raised; if the level of brain chemical rises too high, the molecules block the receptors, so that they cannot receive new messages. Dr Sagar predicts that the same would happen with memory

capacity: in other words, a memory drug would only be effective where the brain is operating below par. It cannot boost "normal" functioning. "But if you don't already have peak transmission then there is a good theoretical reason why you could boost memory," Dr Sagar says.

Who, then, lacks peak transmission in their memory circuits? Clearly, sufferers from Alzheimer's disease do. But legions of people, old and young, complain about having poor memories. Are they also suffering from a deficiency of acetylcholine? "You are asking what makes people smart, and the answer is we don't know," Dr Livingstone says. "It is mainly linked with intelligence and learning."

Maintaining the right level of acetylcholine in the brain is, in other words, a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition of a good memory. But it may be that low levels of acetylcholine affect a wider group than sufferers from Alzheimer's.

"There is no reason why these drugs should not boost memory in young people," Dr Sagar says. "In general, the most intelligent people also have good memories. But there is a scatter effect so that some highly intelligent people have unexpectedly poor memories. They would be a very interesting group to give physostigmine."

"If you have a normal memory it is very unlikely that giving acetylcholine will boost it," Professor Wilcock says. "But if your memory is failing — but you are not suffering from dementia — it may well help."

The issue of who suffers from the type of memory loss that could be helped by drugs has become the focus of the debate. The controversy has been fuelled by Glaxo's approach to the development of ondansetron, originally developed as a treatment for schizophrenia.

Ondansetron or a placebo for 12 weeks. Those who received the drug saw improvements in mental function roughly equivalent to the amount of memory lost in six years of ageing. But British specialists remain unimpressed. They question whether AAMI exists as a distinct disease when there is no visible abnormality of the brain or biochemical imbalance to identify it. If there is no single thing wrong, no single drug is likely to put it right.

"AAMI is a rather dubious disorder which has been artificially created," Professor Levy says. "They have taken a population at one end of the normal spectrum for memory and defined them as a separate category."

Glaxo is frank about its reasons for doing this. Asked why the company was examining ondansetron in AAMI rather than in Alzheimer's disease, Glaxo's Dr Paul Williams said, on *Horizon*: "It affects very many more people in the UK than Alzheimer's."

The upshot is that for people who are merely or dimly forgetful, compared with others of the same age, cognitive enhancers are unlikely to have any effect beyond that of a placebo. But for those whose memory is abnormally poor — rare in the young, more common in the old — there is now the prospect of real help, soon.

There is no doubt whose side the KLM air hostess would have been on in the rather sharp correspondence about Egyptian water-borne infections which raged in *The Times* letters page a few months ago.

The hostess, on the flight to Cairo, expressed her opinions forthrightly that if travellers to the country developed diarrhoea and vomiting it was a reaction to the sun and not to any organism they might have acquired from the water or from food handled by less than spotless hands. On the other hand, a straw poll among medical colleagues hazarded odds of 60-90 per cent on the likelihood of visitors to the Nile region being laid low by travellers' diarrhoea. This reflected the general view that visiting Egypt is an invitation to act as host to alien strains of *E. coli*, the common cause of travellers' diarrhoea, as well as more serious gut organisms.

Abercrombie & Kent, which runs cruises up the Nile, rejects the "it's only the sun" school of thought and when it launched its second small cruise boat, the company decided to defeat the challenge of infection, which it found was the greatest single deterrent to a Nile cruise.

The staff were determined that guests would be able to sip a gin and tonic, with ice, as they viewed the spectacular scenery from deck rather than from a bed strategically placed near the bathroom. Before the boat was launched, kitchen staff had seven months' in-house training in food preparation in which hygiene in general, and the need to wash hands in particular, was a constant refrain. The only water used on board in cooking is bottled, sterilised mineral water; fruit and vegetables are washed thoroughly in the same water. As ice is prepared from mineral water, iced drinks are safe and available at all times and a limitless supply of the bottled water is provided for passengers. Although tap water is not recommended for anything other than washing, it is filtered and treated with ultra violet light.

Perhaps with *The Times* correspondence column still in mind I was offered, and accepted, a free run of the boat to inspect its hygiene. The kitchen's food stores and refrigerators were as spotless as in any first-class hotel wherever I visited them. I also had an unannounced escorted tour from a laundryhand around the crew's quarters. Each crew room had an attached bathroom and these and their communal quarters were as neat and tidy as those in a well disciplined regiment. Abercrombie's regimen has provided a valuable lesson in hygiene to all travellers, for only one of the passengers was slightly ill on the first day, it was assumed from an infection caught in Cairo, and thereafter everybody else was healthy even though they enjoyed iced drinks and most even braved the salads.

tyre, rather than a smooth surface, only 2 per cent of artificial breasts develop this complication and the rest remain comfortably soft.

Surgeons agree that mammography is difficult after an implant but experienced radiologists can still assess breast tissue. Lumps in the breasts can still be felt by hand.

No cases in Britain of breast cancer have been caused by implants. In California a study of 3,000 women who have had the operation showed no increase in breast cancer, even though there was some, statistically insignificant, increase in various diseases, including malignancies.

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

## Pharaoh's curse cure

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Cruising on the Nile: illness often proves a problem

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## Implanting reassurance

THE suggestion on the *World in Action* programme that the use of a silicone breast implant might be associated with an increased incidence of malignant disease, has prompted the presidents of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons and the Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, both of which are based at the Royal College of Surgeons, to write a reply.

The surgeons say there is no scientific evidence that breast implants might increase the risk of breast cancer, or affect the body's immune defence system. They are adamant that there has been no recorded case in Britain of serious disease occurring as a result of a silicone implant, even though they have been used for 25 years for breast augmentation and reconstruction.

The hoary old story that implants explode in high flying aircraft is a good, but untrue, yarn, but there are some real disadvantages to silicone implants about which patients are warned.

In 45 per cent of cases in which smooth walled silicone implants have been used fibrosis around the implant causes capsular contracture, an unnaturally hard, breast. A double blind trial by Professor Lars Hakelius of Uppsala, Sweden, has shown that by using a textured implant, one with a treaded surface as in a car

tyre, rather than a smooth surface, only 2 per cent of artificial breasts develop this complication and the rest remain comfortably soft.

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No cases in Britain of breast cancer have been caused by implants. In California a study of 3,000 women who have had the operation showed no increase in breast cancer, even though there was some, statistically insignificant, increase in various diseases, including malignancies.



An implant: uplifting news

## Healthy leadership prospect

NEIL Kinnock's speech at the Labour conference has been acclaimed but hitherto opinion polls have suggested his style suffers by comparison with his colleagues, particularly John Smith, the shadow chancellor.

How, no discussion about Mr Smith is complete without mention of his coronary thrombosis in 1988.

In fact, the outlook for people with coronary arterial disease is nowhere near as bad as is supposed. In its mildest form, angina without having had an actual coronary, and with a normal resting ECG (heart tracing) and blood pressure, the annual mortality is now no more than 1.4 per cent. If the patient has a high blood pressure, this figure rises to

7.5 per cent, and 8.4 per cent if the resting ECG is abnormal. If the patient is both hypertensive and the ECG is abnormal at rest, the annual mortality rate is 12 per cent.

Prognosis after the initial stages of a coronary thrombosis is good but is dependent on the amount of damage done. Mr Smith had immediate treatment with "clot-busters" and the damage to his heart muscle should be very limited. He is known to be active and take care of his health and, so far as is known, has no signs or symptoms of heart failure or angina. He should have a good prognosis. Even those patients who have needed a coronary bypass do well. Three out of five are trouble-free ten years later.

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# Sweet and sour fict-food

Gillian Tindall feels queasy about a good cook of grotesque with poignant, stark with farcical

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a novel by Anne Tyler is a subject for rejoicing. Compulsively readable, realistic, funny, touching, apparently honest, her sagas of lower-middle America have a flavour that even readers at many removes from this world find irresistible. Yet this very term gives pause for thought: isn't there something a little odd about a novelist of whom eminent reviewers have written variously (italics theirs) "I love her", "she is wickedly good", "pen dipped on one page in acid and on the next in orange liqueur", and "strewn with the banana peels of love"? This is not so much appreciation as drooling, and the foodie metaphors provide their own clue.

Anne Tyler's work is indeed like some rich pabulum in the avocado whip or chocolate range and, like all such easy-to-consume ambrosias, it palls. The first one of her novels that I read, the brilliantly named *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*, acted on me just as if the title and the novel were one. "Try our gizzard soup" says one of the waitresses in that book. "It's really hot and garlicky and made with love." So did that novel seem. Yet three books further on I find qualms setting in, a moral queasiness.

This is not to say that the new novel, *Saint Maybe*, shows any falling off from its predecessors. It is almost quintessential Tyler. Here is another family living in a battered frame house in a provin-

cial city. Here are the couple fatally at odds with each other, the eccentric, loveless single male pursuing an obsession, the messy, loving mother, the neglectful one, the plain woman who gets her man, a wise child or two, and the usual supporting cast of loners and screwballs who might have escaped from another book altogether. It is, however, this mixture of the grotesque with the poignant, the farcical with the stark, that constitutes Tyler's claim to integrity.

For me, she is at her best in portraying ongoing time, that force at work beyond the Americanspeak of choice and decision and this-is-the-woman-who-has-changed-my-life. Two separate men, brothers, use that phrase in

*Saint Maybe*, but their abrupt marriages are the least convincing parts of the novel, mere plot mechanisms compared with the moment when a flooded sewing box is dragged out of a neglected cupboard. "Everything had the dead brown stink of overcooked broccoli. It was amazing how thorough the rust was. It threaded the hooks and eyes, it stippled the needles and straight pins..." Emotional rust has settled on Ian, the novel's central character, and another version of the vulnerable man hijacked by events that we have in *The Accidental Tourist* and in the proprietor of the Homesick Restaurant. This maybe saintly figure starts out as regular high school boy, but is transformed by guilt over his brother's death into



Saint? Maybe, but Anne Tyler's accurate, intimate and much-loved portrayals of lower-middle America can seem more callous than affectionate

the family linchpin, and parent-substitute to his orphaned stepnieces and nephew. The eventual rescue into love is performed by an intolerable bossat with long black hair who has managed to get the house removed (literally) and the rust sorted.

I don't object to the central improbability of the step-children being family-less and identity-less. It is part of American mythology that anyone can become anything and, by the same token, drop out of

their previous existence; we find this assumption in the lost grandchild of Tyler's previous novel, *Breathing Lessons*. Nor — again looking at American norms — do I query the idea that Ian's self-sacrificing choice might have been imposed by a fundamentalist religious belief. But what does stick in my throat is that the author, instead of allowing her central character the dignity of a faith commensurate with his intelligence and his human qualities, shows him poleaxed by a

wretched little backstreet sect, the property of one man who takes reparation for sin to a literal extreme and believes sugar to be over-stimulating. (The final re-creation of this belief, in one of Tyler's vintage hilarious scenes, does not seem an adequate counterweight to Ian's diminished life.)

Some people do lead lives distorted by false beliefs or by the perfidy of others; crippling diseases do occur, and so do senseless suicides. But to pack all these so

easily into a novel to make the story work is not so much true-to-life as gratuitous, and the callousness of this is not leavened, merely veiled, by the funnier scenes. This author is attached to sudden and apparently improbable love matches for her characters, but such arbitrary rewards can end up seeming not even sentimental but heartless. This novel is, like all its predecessors, full of the flavour of individual lives, intimate and lingering, but written with love it is not.

IT IS, astonishingly, 35 years since we first met Tom Ripley. He has not changed much. He's older, of course (though not by 35 years), and settled down with the vivacious Hêloïse, but still as handsome, erudite, sophisticated and charming, and just as amoral.

He is not so much the lovable rogue of crime fiction as the admirable psychopath, unburdened with feelings of guilt or remorse. *Ripley Under Water* is his fifth appearance, and it helps to have read a couple of others: references to past crimes and characters are frequent and not always fully explained.

Nothing much happens, or perhaps a lot happens. Tom and Hêloïse are living quietly and elegantly in their French country house near Fontainebleau. An American couple, the Pritchards, take a place nearby. They appear, at first, merely irritating and over-friendly. Soon it becomes clear that Ripley is the reason for their presence in the village. They know disturbingly much about his past. They openly accuse him of a killing

## A ripple of drab danger

Marcel Berlins

RIPLEY UNDER WATER

By Patricia Highsmith  
Bloomsbury, £13.99

in the vicinity, years ago: that of an American art expert last seen in Ripley's company.

The deceased was on the verge of revealing his suspicions about a successful, Ripley-inspired art forgery fraud. The husband David

follows the Ripleys on a holiday to Tangier. He starts behaving as if he is close to finding the proof of Ripley's crime, the body. Ripley, suavely disconcerted, unsure of the source of Pritchard's knowledge, moves smoothly to protect the life to which he has become so pleasantly accustomed.

One enters Highsmith's world, Graham Greene wrote, "each time with a sense of personal danger". Yet there is nothing overtly sinister about Ripley's world. On the contrary, it is full of the most humdrum actions and decisions, laconically described: buying bread, booking travel tickets, choosing wine, tending the beloved garden. Almost apologetically, a few tiny flashes of the abnormal intrude — a strange telephone call, an unexpected person, occasionally (if necessary) a sudden death or two. The ordinary becomes a cage for the ambiguity of evil. It is a trick that Highsmith has been pulling off with the jump of sudden quiet shock since even before she invented Ripley. I have yet to read anyone who does it better.

THE final instalment of Margaret Drabble's *fin de siècle* trilogy is a maddeningly peculiar book: a novel that explains itself compulsively yet doesn't seem to know itself very well. Having taken two shots at writing about England in the 1980s — one too baroque and distanced (*The Radiant Way*) and the other too simple and personal (*A Natural Curiosity*) — the author has this time happened upon a story that is an ideal vehicle for her ideas about the end of history — the pilgrimage of Stephen Cox to the killing fields of Cambodia — but she doesn't trust it to do the job without running commentary.

"This is a novel — if novel it be — about Good Time and Bad Time," says the narrator. Although statements like this come at us from all directions in this book of brooders, another more problematic duality exists. The novel juxtaposes Stephen's odyssey and pilgrimage, and

Hugh Barnes  
THE GATES OF IVORY  
By Margaret Drabble  
Viking, £14.99

the interior journeys of his various friends back home.

Drabble's characters tend to behave with a solitary theatricality, as if they were living in front of invisible cameras; the private and serious drama of guilt is one of the author's specialties. (When she tries to do without it, her work goes flat — it's just sociology with flourishes.) Too often, however, her characters seem to live in a condition beyond irony, the attitude that complicates guilt.

Stephen's view of the guilt refers to blood and banality. Other banalities — adultery and Coca Cola and Leeds — connect the author with

the terrible world around her. They also connect the extreme and whimsical with ordinary life, with England, with the decade. They serve, in a sense, as a form of history.

In *The Gates of Ivory*, as if finding her own literary manichaeism insufficient for the ambition and complexity of the task in hand, Drabble abjures realism for a form of fantasy that could leave her open to charges of aestheticism, were not the book so blamelessly and unreluctantly dull. On a few occasions, when the author really hits her stride, the inert insufficiency of much of the surrounding text is brought into sharp relief. The result, as in the description of Stephen's first encounter with the "heart of darkness, heart of light", is not only moving and profound but also shows how much better than Margaret Drabble Margaret Drabble can write.

■ Heavy Time, by C. J. Cherryh (New English Library, £14.95). Deep-space miners find a ghost-spaceship, manned only by a severely disabled survivor, and that which leads to a war between the Company and the pilot-élite Shepherds. Not as straightforward as that: like the sought-for mother lode, its moralities are sunk deep within the characters. A quick read, a slow ponder. Well worthwhile.



The free-floating Cherryh

■ The Ring of Charon, by Roger MacBride Allen (*Orbit*, £14.95). This is what we all feared. There has been a Knowledge Crash and information — overwhelmed by all they need to know — are wandering around, while the Naked Purples think all data is bunk. The author certainly knows how to play on contemporary nerves, with this story of a young gravitational scientist — a g-whizz kid? — finding the powerful source of the tug that keeps us and the planets anchored. That he seems to vapourise the earth in the process is only one of the many alarms set off by this parable of awesome possibility. Like cliff-diving, once you've taken the plunge you can't stop... and like knowledge itself.

■ The Architecture of Desire, by Mary Gentle (*Bantam*, £13.99). An SF bodice-ripper? The mind boggles as the corsets tighten before unleashing Gentle continues to trip the feminist fantastic in the alternative-universe ballroom — flouncing with rich satins and doublets and hose — begun in *Rats and Gargoyles*. Her heroine suckles a babe while beating off a rapist-hero (Barbara Cartland, avert your eyes!) and there's a touch of sado-masochism in there somewhere for a spicy measure or two. The writing is as intricate as filigree but as tough as wrought-iron.

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## Green thrills from ME

THERE are some book covers that scream Excitement! Action! Danger! with huge, yawning writing and glaringly ominous backdrops. They seem to dare you to open their pages. Take Clare Francis's *Requiem* and Bernard Cornwell's *Stormchild*, for example. Their new novels have covers so petrifigly violent — stark staring titles, vivid green and blue backgrounds, illuminated by the silhouette of a hawk on the former, forked lightning on the latter — that you wonder how the plot could live up to the drama of the promise.

*Requiem* is a thriller almost despite itself. That Francis has concocted a pacy, even intriguing story around characters with such unpromising names as TroChem, Alden and 2, 4, 5-T can only testify to a certain doggedness in its author. It's a long novel and a fairly complicated one, taking in a large cast and disconcerting leaps of place and time, but Francis clings to her theme with the passion of the converted. The kernel of the novel is an agrochemical that kills. But Francis is president of ME Action (the book is dedicated to "all my fellow sufferers who are still fighting their way up the long path to recovery") and the fact bears heavily on the story. The symptoms of the Silverton victims, like those of ME sufferers, are initially dismissed by doctors; and pulsing beneath the descriptions of their pain is a strong sense of personal outrage.

So, too, in the behaviour of the novel's heroine, Daisy Field (a green name if ever there was one), a woman of almost unimaginable persistence, is campaigning to prove the link between a certain anti-bug spray and a debilitating disease. Her search takes her through the company of Si-

Sabine Durrant

REQUIEM  
By Clare Francis  
Heinemann, £14.99  
STORMCHILD  
By Bernard Cornwell  
Michael Joseph, £14.99  
FLY SANDWICH  
By Ivor Cutler  
Methuen, £9.99

mon Calthrop, a dishevelled journalist, Susan Driscoll, a soignée minister's wife, and Nick Mackenzie, a drying-out rock star, and his lovely wife Alusha. It is a menagerie that would do Jackie Collins proud — rigid with cliché (the rock star with his "intriguing quality and words that make you think") is particularly hammed). The character of Daisy fades as the book progresses, disintegrating into an odd combination of committed activist (withstanding bugs in phones, live rats in her drawers) and lovesick ninny ("her eyes sparkled lopsidedly, her mouth wove all over the place"). The book, though, manages to stay together, helped perhaps by unexpected streaks of lyricism — "a brittle blue-washed moon".

Tim Blackburn, the hero of *Stormchild*, could certainly do with the odd moon, brittle or blue-washed, or even paper. He is a sailor, and in the course of the book navigates his way — despite scudding clouds and deluge — across the Atlantic and down to the wild desolate coast of Patagonia. At the start of the book he's getting over the death of his son and the disappearance of his daughter. Three pages in, his wife is killed in an explosion clearly meant for him too. Even for old sea dogs, it never rains but it pours.

Bernard Cornwell, along

with Francis, is dealing with matters environmental, but here the tables have turned. In *Stormchild* the environmentalists are baddies. "Genesis", from their filthy commune in Patagonia, run a dictatorship, maintain their hold on workers by propagating myths (that the whole world has AIDS, for example), plan terrorist campaigns, and appear to have kidnapped Blackburn's daughter. Reactionary stuff, but the story is exciting enough for the first person narration to be reassuring (at least, you think, he must come out of it alive). It's Paul Theroux meets Arthur Ransome, if only because the characters are so self-conscious about their part in the "adventure": Blackburn's brother makes regular references to John Buchan and Bulldog Drummond, and Caspar von Reilster, the cold German maniac who heads the Genesis community, makes such comments as "It's alright [sic] I'm quite alone," well before the plot makes them necessary. Not that it's long before it does. Genesis want to clean up the world. Blackburn plans to do the same to them.

From the big issues to the little ones, Fly Sandwich, the latest small volume from the performance artist Ivor Cutler, is a collection about bugs. Cutler's short verses, illustrated by Martin Honeysett's quirky line drawings, take insects and other small creatures (though they do include a mouse) and mix them with a cliché. "Not/Many flies/Have/Feathers" reads one: the joke coming in the image provoked by the familiar turn of phrase. Many of these ditties are ludicrous, but they upturn your view of the world. Which, you have to admit, is more than is achieved by Francis or Cornwell — for all their dramatic covers.

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## CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

# In Dublin's fair city, where soul sounds so gritty

Geoff Brown on Alan Parker's *The Commitments*, *Let Him Have It*, *The Worst of All*, *Julia Has Two Lovers* and *Galahad of Everest*

The other week, in *Stepping Out*, Liza Minnelli's tap dancing class was putting on a show in Buffalo, New York. Now, in *The Commitments* (15, Odeon Marble Arch), the spotlight falls on a 12-strong Dublin rabble — raw, lusty, disputatious, and with a mission to give soul music an Irish accent. They call themselves "The Commitments" — thus the title of the film, which is a rip-roaring, upbeat, hilarious affair from director Alan Parker.

Since *Fame* 11 years ago, Parker has become so passionate an explorer of American culture that it seemed this Islington lad was never coming home. He remains the expatriate, but Roddy Doyle's novel at least takes him over the Atlantic, to an unlovely Dublin of concrete, weeds, wrecked cars and clambering urinals. Parker's usual cameraman, Michael Seresin, could make a desirable residence from the most ravaged slum; his new camera eye, Gale Tattersall, avoids all gentrification. Parker also leaves star names behind; instead, he cast local musicians and coaxed (or bullied) the latent actor out of them.

They are wonderfully good company. Sharp-faced Robert Arkins is the manager, Jimmy, trying to contain his hot-headed band of tooters, thumpers, pounders, strummers and three buxom lassies (the back-up warblers). Johnny Murphy, an established stage actor, brings a special twinkle to trumpet player Joey, the group's spiritual guru who spins travellers' tales of Elvis. But the music-making is dominated by Deco, lead singer and big-head. Looking much older than his 16 years, Andrew Strong commands the stage and yells out lyrics with demonic force.

If any band member is Parker's alter ego, it must be this combative, truculent figure. Yet the Parker banter-ram, is, rarely visible. Scenes tumble over each other friskily, and the script's sociological asides ("The Irish are the blacks of Europe") fit naturally alongside the spiky humour. Doyle's novel — neatly adapted by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais. *The Commitments* lacks only one useful ingredient: a pool of

quiet. Buoyed by his sympathy for these youngsters striving to carve something from nothing, Parker indulges their music more than is advisable. You start the film foot-tapping; you end it somewhat fatigued. In between, though, Parker brings off his most likeable achievement in years.

British crime films once meant dull corpses fished from the Thames or jewel thieves and men from the Yard in hot pursuit at 30 mph. But that was before *Dance With a Stranger* dug up the file on

*'Buoyed by his sympathy for these youngsters striving to carve something from nothing, Parker indulges their music more than is advisable'*

Ruth Ellis, the last woman in Britain to be hanged, or *The Krays* delved into the psychological make-up of Ronnie and Reggie, malevolent East End gangsters. Let Him Have It (18, Odeon Leicester Square) exhumes more history: the notorious Craig/Bentley case of 1952, where a 19-year-old epileptic was executed for a policeman's murder, though his 16-year-old chum (too young for the noose) did the killing.

Peter Medak, director of *The Krays*, takes command again for this powerful drama, though the style is very different. For all the overhead shots and the night scenes' Gothic gloom, this is a film with its feet on the ground, content to explore these luckless boys' lives through accretion of realistic detail. Christopher Craig, the younger of the two, is the catalyst: a cocky would-be hoodlum in the wilds of Croydon, still with a schoolboy's

sneak of a voice. Derek Bentley is the one who tags along: slow-witted, desperate for Craig's approval, dwarfed by an outsize blue jacket, his hair transfixed in a Marcel wave. Christopher Eccleston, in a fine cinema debut, portrays him as a tragic lost soul.

Bentley's fate becomes sealed when he yells "Let him have it" as Craig brandishes a gun before a man in blue during an attempted warehouse robbery one cold Sunday night. Plug him with bullets, or surrender your gun: the phrase could mean both, though to judge and jury only the first was possible.

Medak can overdo the period props — in every street scene, five quaint buses seem to pitter by. But his grip is sure where it matters most: with the characters. In an unsettling portrayal, Paul Reynolds makes Craig appear both lethal and ridiculous; while Tom Courtenay does marvellous things as Bentley's quiet-mannered father. Behind them stand Britain's army of character actors, pressed into service as wardens, attorneys and judges. Sombre and moving, *Let Him Have It* is that comparative rarity: a mainstream British film that still gives audiences something to chew on.

Now to *Julia Has Two Lovers* (15, Cannons Tottenham Court Road, Chelsea, Screen on the Hill), which introduces Bashir Shbib, a Canadian film-maker now resident in Los Angeles. Shbib shoots semi-improvised shoestring comedies in the time some of us take to iron a load of wash: since this first emerged last summer, he has already finished four more.

Though very much a trifle, *Julia* still proves one of his stronger efforts. Toying with marriage to her drab lover in Los Angeles, Julia takes a marathon phonecall from a stranger. They talk while shaving, bathing, chopping fruit; they talk about orgasms and other intimacies. Love blossoms, though the petals start falling once Julia discovers him pitching telephone woo to another susceptible lonelyheart. Relationships in a technological age, the female predicament: Shbib's material, based on a story by its lead actress Daphne Kastner, glows with promise. Eventually the glow fades, partly



Trying to contain *The Commitments*, his band of tooters and strummers: Robert Arkins as Jimmy

because Kastner and David Duchovny — both veterans of Henry Jaglom films — cope fitfully with improvisation. Sometimes the dialogue rolls merrily off the tongue; but you can tell Kastner is floundering when she responds to any argument by shouting a repeat of her previous line. Mercifully short, and most economically made (for locations Shbib used his and Kastner's apartments), *Julia Has Two Lovers* is a feather-duster film: easy to pick up, easy to put down.

By contrast, Maria Luisa Bemberg's Argentine film *Let Him Have It* (15, Electric) is a finely polished jewel: every setting elegantly lit with an eye to the burlesque clarity of Spanish 17th century painting; each word precisely placed, each scene pitched at a steady tread. This might sound like 90 minutes in a funeral

parlour, but the absorbing story and central performance easily prevent the ice of extreme artifice forming.

Bemberg only entered the film business at the age of 50, after cutting herself free from husband and children. The feminist commitment remains her current heroine is the 17th century Mexican poet, Sister Juana Inés de la Cruz, renowned for her brilliance, beauty and bad relations with a Church fast succumbing to galloping intolerance. "Intelligence has no sex," she tells the convent children; but she is soon stifled by her new Archbishop, aghast at the notion of a thinking female.

Assumptina Serna brings this contradictory woman to marvellous life, capturing all her gaiety,

gravity, piety and pride. Dominique Sanda shares some of her best scenes as the Vice-Reine who offers protection and love. The stylised settings of theatre designer Voytek — grills, shadows, white wimple, grey stone, a lapping sea of bright blue polythene — provide their own pleasures. This is eloquent, exquisite film-making.

*Galahad of Everest* (PG, Odeon Mezzanine) offers booming actor and amateur mountaineer Brian Blessed clambering up Everest in the guise of pioneer explorer George Mallory (lost on the peak in 1924). This BBC documentary has its moments ("It's hell. I never envisaged this. It's just hell," Blessed cries), but firmly belongs on a television screen. Wait a few months, and it will arrive.

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## BRIEFING

## Brickman quits

MARK Brickman, artistic director of the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, has resigned after only a year in office following a management decision to change his artistic programme. Faced with a potential deficit of £250,000, the board of the repertory theatre asked Brickman to abandon his forthcoming productions of *Hedda Gabler* and *The Front Page* in favour of what chairman John Cornwell calls "quality productions that would be financially viable".

Brickman refused to consider alternate programming, believing "there is little point in having a subsidised theatre which does not put on challenging work." New plans for the Crucible's current season have not yet been announced. Declining box-office receipts are blamed partly on the competition from the recently reopened Lyceum nearby.

## Song 'n' dance

LONDON Contemporary Dance Theatre has been engaged by the Royal Opera to provide the dance element in its Wembley Arena production of Puccini's *Turandot*, which opens on December 29. LCDT, which is contributing 20 dancers to the stadium production, will be working with the choreographer Kate Flin. It is the first time LCDT has collaborated with an opera company.

## Last chance...



ASTONISHING CRITICS: actress Fiona Shaw

PERHAPS the performance is a little unvarying in its intensity, and perhaps it is difficult to see the nuances of character beneath the terminal anguish. But the sheer daring of Fiona Shaw's Hedda Gabler left most critics breathless — and the public hammering on the doors of the Playhouse (071-839 4401), where Deborah Warner's revival of Ibsen's play ends its all-too-short season on Saturday.

## ARTS REVIEWS

Benedict Nightingale assesses the latest play at the Barbican; plus Alice Cooper at Wembley Arena  
Page 20

## TELEVISION

# Screening the stars for a modern classic

The BBC's new Saturday night drama series has been devised by Simon Curtis, better known as a Royal Court Theatre director. Anna Kythreotis met him

Les Dawson is not a name that springs immediately to mind in connection with serious drama. Yet, improbably, the lugubrious comedian finds himself in the company of Ian Holm, Judi Dench, John Malkovich, Miranda Richardson and a formidable ensemble of distinguished players in BBC 2's new *Performance* series.

For all its undoubted merit, studio drama is in danger of sinking under its own leaden weight. "The well-made Sunday night play has gone out of fashion and, if some have their way, it would be finished completely," says executive producer Simon Curtis. "But historically, the BBC has always done this work very well and it is important not to leave it behind." He sees the modest viewing figures the genre attracts as the effect rather than the cause of the decline.

"I think a lot of them became rather uninspired and, equally, there were plays that didn't really deserve to be done. There's no point in doing *The Rivals*, say, just because it hasn't been done in a while. There has to be a real reason to justify doing it."

Curtis makes a strong case for his own, inevitably idiosyncratic, choices, which begin this Saturday with Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* adapted by David Mamet, "which gives it a completely new edge"; a screenplay version of Pinter's *Old Times*, "with scenes that have never been included before in any production"; the before-in-any-production Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls* (in co-

production with the Royal Court), "one of the great plays of the Eighties, if not the greatest play"; the Argentinian play *La Nona* by Roberto Cossa (with Les Dawson in travesty as a centenarian grandmother); and Rodney Ackland's *Absolute Hell*, which Curtis considers a lost masterpiece of the 20th century. "All of them," he explains, "are bound together by an ability to say something about the contemporary world. I hope they will actually benefit from that kind of intensity, and demonstrate that a television studio can be a very exciting place where you can do things without the burden of naturalism."

For work that stands or falls on the quality of the material and the performers, Curtis is making no concessions. "There's a tendency on location series where, if a conversation is longer than a few seconds, you must have a visual distraction for fear

people will switch off," he says with disapproval. "We're saying 'Pay attention and you'll get brilliant acting and great writing as your reward.' At 90 minutes, the plays are shorter than equivalent theatre productions, "except for the Chekhov which is just over two hours — but if you're going to spend two hours in the company of a writer it might as well be Chekhov."

The uncompromising theatrical intention of the productions is emphasised by Curtis's dual role as producer of the series and director of two of the plays. He is a scion of the Royal Court, committed advocate of new writing, and has been described by *The International Herald Tribune*



Judi Dench in Rodney Ackland's "forgotten 20th century masterpiece", *Absolute Hell*

as "the best young director of his generation". This, however, is the first time he has worked with television. "Alan Yentob [Controller, BBC 2] wanted someone who was part of the theatre community in an attempt to make this kind of work vital and alive again."

A no-nonsense 30-year-old south Londoner, Curtis discovered and became obsessed with theatre at the age of 15. "What was amazing was that I discovered the Royal Court so quickly and that my taste was defined so early on. It was the world of new writing that I really identified with."

He made a precocious professional debut, directing *Polizakoff's Hitting Town* in Los Angeles, before starting his second year at Bristol University where he read English — "having failed to get into the drama department," he adds pointedly. Within hours of his finals, he began work at the Royal Court, becoming deputy director four years later. He has

also worked at the Liverpool Playhouse, the National Theatre and in New York.

"I grew up at the Royal Court and it will always be my spiritual home, but seven years is a long time to spend in one theatre. I felt I owed it to myself and the Court to branch out. A lot of the writers I'm interested in are writing for television rather than theatre. I want to go back and forth. I've been warned that I might find it very hard to go back to

I'm familiar with the struggle of making quality work fit an inadequate budget."

Nevertheless, he discovered that even though the costs of one programme would have kept both theatres at the Royal Court functioning happily for over a year, it was still not quite enough to make one good television play. He then took the initiative of introducing transatlantic elements into the scheme, and found American co-production money, largely from a television channel there. "I'm a great believer in American writers, actors and directors, so it's no hardship collaborating with them."

Beyond confirming that they share a common interest in this kind of work, Curtis won't discuss his meeting with Steven Spielberg. Asked if it was in connection with the next series of *Performance*, Curtis replies with an enigmatic "It may or may not be."

Quite how the BBC god-fathers have responded to his bold *modus operandi*, Curtis isn't telling, though some sources suggest that they were not entirely happy. However, if *Performance* pulls in the viewing figures its quality deserves, the BBC mandarins may yet find themselves joining Curtis, who admits to dancing jubilantly when he has filled the Theatre Upstairs, in a spirited mazurka.

● *Absolute Hell*, the first play in the *Performance* series, is on BBC 2 at 9.30pm on Saturday.

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## Happiness at an end

Peter Barnard reflects on the ifs and butts of an ad campaign

At about 11.40 last night a man walked into a bar and, seeing an attractive girl, went to spruce himself up. He washed his hands but splashed water over his trousers. He washed his face but got soap in his eyes. Thus blinded, he put a foot in a bucket. Thus shod, he skidded through the washroom door and came to rest at the girl's feet. Thus stranded, he reached to pull himself up by the bar at the very moment the barman lifted the counter. Thus defeated, the man lit a small cigar and drifted off... into television history.

Happiness was a cigar called Hamlet. Just before midnight, the last Hamlet commercial, a taste of hope from a tale of woe, disappeared in several puffs of smoke, the victim of a right-minded, right-on modern lobby against tobacco, or the victim of interfering Brussels bureaucrats who presume to know what is bad for us. Take your pick.

The single-theme Hamlet campaign has run for 27 years, almost as long as *Coronation Street*. John Ritchie, who was and remains the account director at Collett, Dickenson, Pearce, the agency that handles Gallaher, swears that what sounds like a Hamlet ad script is actually true. "Two of our creative people were having a hard time coming up with a slogan. One night, soaking wet after standing at a bus stop, they got on the bus only to find they had no cigarettes. They bummed one off a chap in the next seat and after taking a drag one of them said to the other, 'Happiness is a bit of cigarette on a number 34 bus'."

This back of a bus ticket idea has launched Patrick Cargill as a persecuted music teacher, Keith Michel as King Canute, Ronnie Corbett sinking in the Boat Race and, for last year's World Cup, a player failing by a free kick that hit him in the testicles. All human life is here, to the accompaniment of a Jacques Lussier arrangement of Bach's *Air on a G String*.

No wonder people say the ads are the best thing on television. To further the simplistic notion that a smoke relieves stress, the ad industry has produced some of television's wittiest moments. Alcohol and tobacco may be the twin *bêtes noires* of 1990s healthspies, but selling them has inspired genuine creativity. The Hamlet commercial in which a man is trying to watch a tennis match in a neck brace, unable to move his head while all about are moving theirs, is a brilliant piece of lateral thinking.

Will the ban on commercials stop people smoking? Since the Hamlet ad was launched in 1964, the market for small cigars has moved this way and that but it has never been far off 1.5 million cigars a year. The point of the campaign is that it has given Hamlet 50 per cent of the market.

The question of whether this market would have shrunk without the advertising is from the realms of the remark by the first Lord Leverhulme to the effect that he knew half of his advertising budget was wasted, but he knew not which half. In advertising, empirical evidence is usually a contradiction in terms.

Advertising people are kicking themselves over the disappearance of tobacco commercials. Their demise originates in the European Community Trans-Frontier Broadcasting Directive, a title even Bach and Lussier could place on every lip. "This is tautologous interference," says Ritchie, "but Brussels speaks with one voice and the industry doesn't, or it didn't do so soon enough. We should have seen this coming earlier."

To borrow from the other Hamlet: the rest is silence.

# Jekyll the patriot, Hyde the nationalist

Conor Cruise O'Brien says xenophobia is not new and cannot be wished away

the subject treat it as if it were quite modern phenomenon which popped up out of nowhere in the late 18th century. But the French Revolution and its aftermath saw not the invention of nationalism, but its secularisation.

As a conglomerate of emotions around land, religion, language and ancestors, nationalism goes back to the roots of our Western Judaeo-Hellenic civilisation. It is strongly present in the Hebrew Bible, with its concept of a chosen people in a promised land. On the Hellenic side, nationalism found expression in the cults of those who died for the polis and the patria. These themes, in one form or another, have been constant throughout Western history, packed as it is with chosen peoples. The most notable example is the United States: a chosen people complete with a promised land.

Mr Bush is a strong American nationalist, though he does not see himself that way. Americans, like the English, tend to consider nationalism something rather

disreputable to which foreigners are unfortunately prone. From this perspective, nationalism is a bad thing and should never be confused with patriotism, a good thing and characteristic of oneself and the better element among one's fellow countrymen. In reality, nationalism and patriotism are two ways of referring to the same elemental force. They are as inseparable as Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

Today Mr Hyde is on the rampage in the Soviet Union, as well as in Yugoslavia, and it is natural that Mr Pankin should concentrate on the destructive aspects of nationalism. But Dr Jekyll is also present. Nationalism does not only tear people and things apart, it also holds them together. Without the cement of American nationalism (alias patriotism), sedulously inculcated into each generation of immigrants, the fabric of American society would dissolve. The resulting chaos of interregional and interethnic conflict would be worse than anything Yugoslavia can show today.

It has yet to be demonstrated that human beings can live together in large numbers without the conserving and integrating force of nationalism. So we have to live with nationalism, and try to control its destructive potential. Within each nation, we should discourage xenophobia. In particular, we must be alert to manifestations of anti-Semitism, the great danger signal, which means Mr Hyde is stirring.

He is stirring now in France and, even more disquietingly, throughout the united Germany, where increasing support for neo-Nazism is reported, especially among the young. British anti-Semitism has always been milder than the continental kind, and any revival of it is consequently more difficult to detect. But here too there are a few disturbing signs.

At the international level one can hope to manage nationalism through the creation and development of supranational ideologies and institutions. Marxism, which supplied one set of these,

has now gone down in comprehensive ruin. The United Nations was never intended to have a supranational role, at least not in relation to any of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The question of the hour is whether the European Community is to acquire a supranational political role. Advocates of what Chancellor Kohl has called "the United States of Europe" point to the chaos engulfing Yugoslavia and parts of the Soviet Union to demonstrate the urgency of making the EC a fully supranational polity. But the reasoning is not clear. The simultaneous collapse of two supranational polities does not obviously demonstrate the need to create a third. True, the third would be radically different from the first two, since it would be a voluntary association based on democratic choice. That great difference should never be dismissed. Yet the difference does not necessarily imply that a supranational community with the power to override national parliaments would better contain

the destructive potential of nationalism. There are good grounds for believing that it might have the opposite effect and stimulate xenophobia.

When members of a nation begin to feel they are being pushed around by foreigners, Mr Hyde is likely to be heard from. And the experience of being ruled from Brussels might well have that effect, not only in Britain but in other countries. The supranational experiment might end in the destruction of the Community's proven institutions and reopen old nationalist conflicts.

For these reasons, I believe John Major's European strategy and tactics are basically right. Like Mrs Thatcher's, his strategy is the defence of national sovereignty, but his tactics are widely different from hers. She shattered European ear drums with the excruciating strains of an aroused English nationalism. Mr Major speaks softly, and in a manner which reminds other European countries that they too have national sovereignty and national feelings to consider. They do, which is why I believe Mr Major, and not the militant Europeans, will succeed.

## A dreaming spire for London

Come, let us annoy Sir Godfrey Taylor. He has done me no harm, and indeed I had never knowingly heard of him until an hour ago, but he is thwarting, or at least attempting to thwart, an idea so splendid and imaginative that nothing must be allowed to stand in its way. Sir Godfrey is standing in its way. So we must annoy him till he desists.

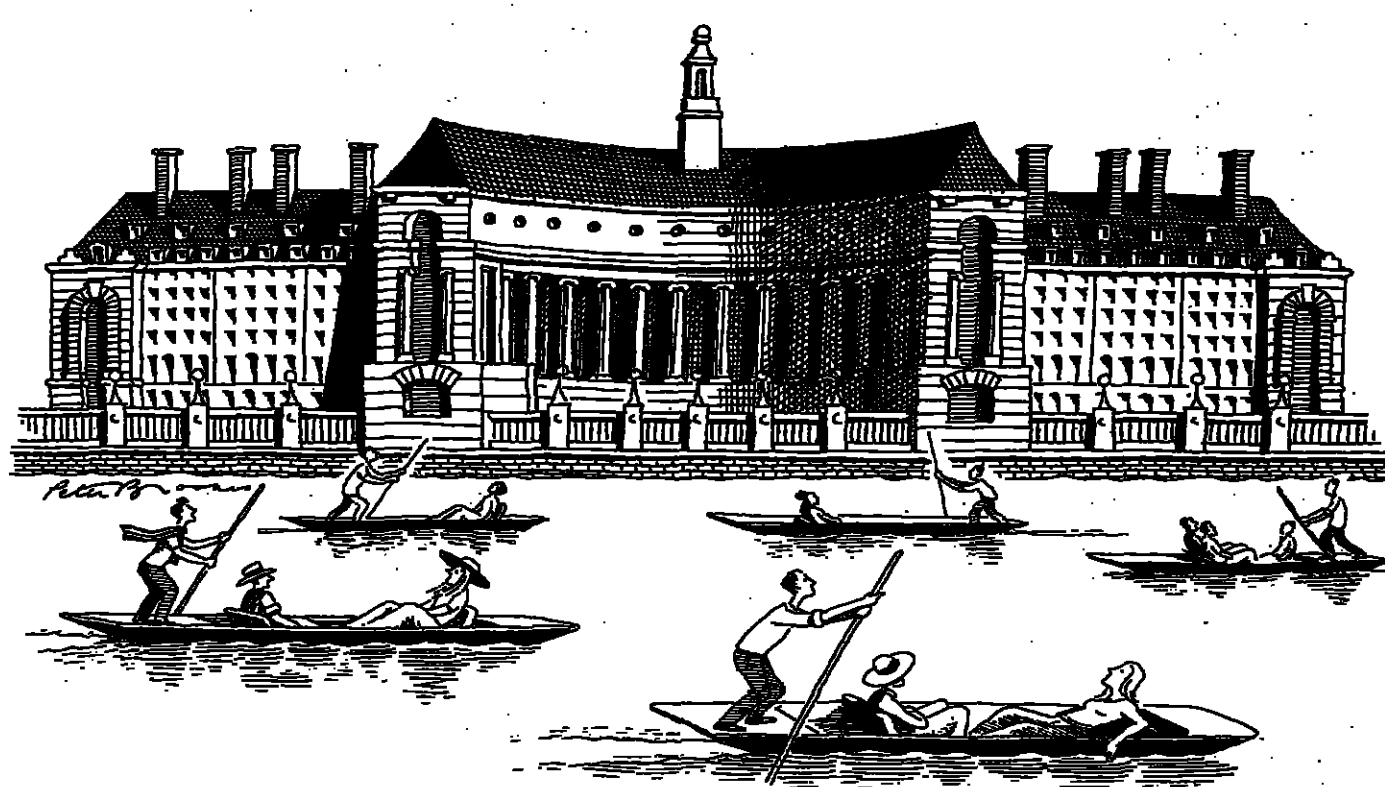
I am a graduate of the London School of Economics, where I sat at the feet of such luminaries as Harold Laski, Maurice Ginsberg, Lionel Robbins, Michael Oakeshott, K.B. Smellie and my hero, Karl Popper, from these, I learned practically everything of value that I know.

In 1974, however, I had a nasty shock: I realised that by a few months I was older than the newly installed director of the LSE, Ralf Dahrendorf, and when a man finds that he is older than the head of the institution in which he got his principal education, he is likely to look in the mirror and fumble for razors. (Robert Conquest had a much nastier shock of the same kind; he realised, when J.F. Kennedy won the 1960 election, that the president of the United States was actually younger than he was, though by only a few weeks. I have always believed that Bob, not Lee Harvey Oswald, shot him.)

Imagine, then, the horror with which I realised that when I went up to the LSE as a first-year undergraduate, the present director, Professor John Ashworth, was eight years old.

I'll be shooting him, I can tell you, but not before he has brought to fruition the magnificent idea I mentioned when I started. For he wants to take over County Hall, together with its stables, the Island Block and the North and South Blocks, and house the LSE in it.

The LSE has been hopelessly cramped since I was a student there. It has expanded to its limit by buying up bits and pieces of surrounding buildings, but it will soon burst, and the work it does



The South Bank would make a fine home for the LSE, urges Bernard Levin

suffers from the inadequacy of the premises; the Library of the Social Sciences, the jewel in the college's crown (it has two million works in its stacks, more than any such specialist collection anywhere) will soon need more room, too.

County Hall is empty; when the GLC was abolished, and Ken Livingstone was dethroned (do you remember when he and his gang gave — and for a peppercorn rent — the Festival Hall's entire 5,000 square feet of open space to Brezhnev, to mount a monstrous exhibition of lies and evil?), County Hall lost its raison d'être. For a time it was squatted in by a residue of those who, in the Livingstone days, had strolled the corridors, monarchs of all they surveyed, but the law turfed them out, and now there is no one in it, unless the ghost of Herbert Morrison patrols the place at night.

The abolition of the GLC posed problems; it owned County Hall, as had the LCC before it, but if the GLC was dead, to whom could County Hall be left in its will? A new organisation was hastily invented, called the London Residuary Body, and County Hall was put into its hands, along with the South Bank halls. (And do you remember when Livingstone and his cronies instituted tests for political correctness among those wishing to perform in the Festival Hall?)

Which is where Sir Godfrey Taylor comes in. He is chairman of the London Residuary Body, and he is deeply hostile to the idea of bringing the LSE across the river. And that is why we have to annoy him.

He first looked kindly on a project which would have turned County Hall partly into a block of

flats. But it is singularly unfitted for either of these proposed metamorphoses, and in any case the entrepreneurs who proposed the scheme could not come up with the money. Whence young Johnny Ashworth and his vision of the LSE, with students strolling that huge curved corridor, each of them equipped if not with forty acres and a cow, at least a desk, and even a chair.

I have the detailed scheme — very detailed indeed — for an LSE across the Rubicon, and I must say that I have never seen a proposal for action so meticulously, lucidly and comprehensively drawn up, every time when reading through it, I said to myself "Ah, but...". I only had to turn the page to find that my objection had been considered and met.

The scheme, then, is sound, and what is more, exciting. But

we are far from home yet. The borough within which County Hall falls is Lambeth, so the necessary planning permission will have to be sought from one of the loomiest of all the loony municipalities. Here, we have some good news and some bad: the good news is that Lambeth undoubtedly still believes that the LSE is a raging fire of revolution. (I beg you all my readers not to say or do anything that will disillusion them.) The bad news is that Lambeth Council dreams of a Labour government which will restore County Hall and the GLC in the same hour.

The permission that we need concerns the Riverside Building and the Island Block. The North Block and South Block already have the necessary permissions from the ministry, but these have to be renewed. Very likely, the minister will

have to rule in the end. The present Minister for the Environment is Michael Heseltine, and I cannot believe that he would turn down Professor Ashworth, particularly because he must know the truth, about the political bent of today's LSE, which we are all pledged to conceal from Lambeth Council.

Oh, can we British not for once thrill to an idea and carry it through? The LSE is one of the most admirable and valuable educational centres this country has; it has, I believe, a greater proportion than any other of students from other countries, and when they come they find a vast variety of opinions and beliefs and teachings. It is worth saying that many of the overseas students come from countries where only one political position is allowed, and for the awakening of such young people alone, the LSE deserves to be honoured.

As my life I have mourned the opportunity I missed when I was young; I wanted to go to Cambridge, or failing her, Oxford, and the fates conspired to deprive me of my ambition. I enjoyed the LSE, and I owe it an immense debt of gratitude; my frustrated yearning had nothing to do with the quality of the teaching or the friendships I made. When I longed for — and still do when I go there — was the space and peace of those lawns, the ancient stone of those walls, the well-trodden steps of those staircases, still echoing with great names gone before.

Well, the south bank of the Thames is hardly Cambridge, let alone Arcadia. Nevertheless, the elegant sweep of County Hall, its majestic view over and along the river, its undated handsomeness — these things, with a genuine touch of *rus in urbe*, could provide something like the cloistered calm of the twin great universities, and give every LSE student with enough imagination to understand a glimpse of the gift I missed. Do give in gracefully, Sir Godfrey.



...and moreover  
**CRAIG BROWN**

Following the publication of *Scarlett*, the sequel to *Gone with the Wind*, I am happy to present the long-awaited sequel to D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. At the end of Lawrence's novel, Lady Chatterley has left her crippled husband in order to set up house with the gamekeeper, Mellors, whose child she is expecting in the spring. What became of them? At last, in the long awaited sequel, set thirty years later in 1958, we find out. Amaze your friends! Be the first to read *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

"That's got a right ter hide me bottle o' spirits, yer fat-arsed toad. Appen that's ter gi' me my bottle, yer swine!" The dawn — the dawn of mankind, and of hope — was rising like the sap of the earth, the very manhood of nature, when Lady Chatterley demanded her first bottle of the day from her common-law husband, Mellors.

"My dear Connie, this really is most untoward," replied Mellors, straightening his silk tie in the mirror after a perfect shave. "We do have our reputation in the area to protect. If ever word got out that you were drinking too much, it would do the reputation of my chain of high class provisioners no good at all. Our valued customers expect better from people of our standing in the community."

"Kow-tow! Kow-tow! Yer'll arse-lick 'til yer tongue's touchin' yer leather shoes, that yer will, Mellors, yer stuck-up toff!" replied Constance Chatterley,

tripping over an old copy of Burke's *Landed Gentry*. Her common-law husband was now proud owner of a complete set, and she cursed him for it as no woman had cursed a man before. It hadn't been easy for Mellors these past thirty-odd years, not easy at all. Connie had taken him at his word, left her husband and traced him to a farm. With the modest sum of money Connie had obtained from Lord Chatterley, Mellors had bought a small delicatessen, selling luxury items such as bittermint, fancy pastries and the finest cuts of smoked meat. At first, he had struggled to maintain a hold on his beliefs and principles. The sign over the shop had read: "Mellors: as good as the next man when naked. Purveyor of fancy rubbish to folk as has more money than sense. Buy up or shove off, you toffed-nosed weasels!" but trade had never really picked up.

As the years went by, it had occurred to him that folk were put off by his habit of roaming naked behind the glass cherry counter, hollering his fierce reprimands to the conceited lily-livered rabbits of the English middle classes, the mingiest set of ladylike snipe ever to have flapped a wing. Slowly, ever so slowly, he had altered his manner to suit his customers, and over the years he discovered that he could sell more goods by saying "May I be of service, modum?" instead of "Summat fer yer belly, pig-face!" "Appen that's ter gi' me my bottle yer swine!"

Alas, Lady Chatterley had not adapted so well. Or rather, she had adapted, but rather too well. Having once been so delectably upper-crust, she had taken to heart Mellors' incessant demands to live life to the full, to bare all her animal instincts, to cast off her middle-class chains. Mellors now found that she was an embarrassment to his customers, with her coarse language and complete lack of propriety. And her ceaseless demands on his body! She simply had no idea of the necessity for a creaseless suit and tie in the high-class catering trade. It was the very least one of his customers were entitled to expect.

"Shake, Rattle and Roll! Shake, Rattle and Roll!" Their son, Cliff, thirty years of age come spring, was scarcely any better. A no-good layabout, his only interest lay in the Bill Haley songbook. "You're to come back here and give that room of yours a tidy!" shouted back Mellors, giving his shoes a final brush.

"See you later, Alligator!" yelled Cliff, banging the door behind him.

John Thomas! John Thomas! Show me your manhood!" Lady Chatterley had heaped her soft flesh, all 18 stone of it, on top of his body, scuffing up his neat lapels, scattering leaves everywhere. Tomorrow, he vowed to ring Lord Chatterley with an apology and the offer of a substantial cash sum. Over and over, he cursed that D.H. Lawrence for plunging him into this fearful situation.

## Hoo pays?

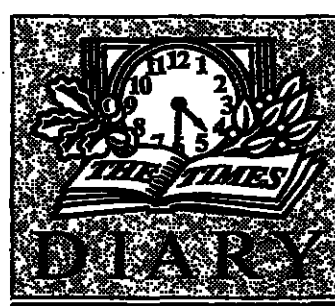
AFTER the rumour over *The Three Graces* and the Badminton Cabinet, one of Britain's finest private art collections is under threat. The London Residuary Body, which includes the LSE, is to be broken up and sold in the face of debts in excess of £1 million. The heir to the collection, Nicholas Phillips, committed suicide earlier this year after financial worries. The charitable foundation running the collection is known to be in severe financial difficulties.

Sources in the art world say the foundation has approached Christie's, whose experts have toured the house to offer valuations in advance of a sale. Christie's is said to require a firm decision "within days" if it is to proceed with plans for a December auction.

Phillips' widow, Lucy, refused yesterday to be drawn on her plans. "The trustees are looking at a number of options. You will appreciate that it takes an enormous sum of money to run such a large house." What is likely to come up for auction is Luton Hoo's unparalleled collection of Renaissance enamels and ceramics.

The foundation has had to scrape around for money before. In 1980 it was forced to sell Alderley's *Christ Taking Leave of His Mother* to the National Gallery.

If the collection is depleted, the loss will be immense. Started by Phillips' great-grandfather, Sir Julius Wernher, the collection was augmented by his daughter-in-law, Lady Zia, who acquired works by the Russian imperial goldsmith Fabergé, forming the largest such collection in England after that of the Queen.



● Romano Mussolini, the pianist in London this week to perform at the Soho jazz festival, clearly had a good war, despite the obvious difficulties. While *Il Duce*, his father, banned jazz throughout Italy as a decadent American influence, the young Mussolini spent his war years listening to imported *Fats Waller* records and learning to play them on the family piano.

## Honorary consul

LORD CARRINGTON is planning to return to Zimbabwe for the first time since he attended the independence ceremony in 1980, after the Lancaster House negotiations, which he led. But questions are being raised over whether Carrington, who is heavily involved in the EC's Yugoslavian peace process, will be able to spare the time.

Carrington is due to fly to Zimbabwe on November 8 to open an engineering school which bears his name. The former foreign secretary directed an appeal which raised £50,000. The Carrington school will be the engineering wing of Peterhouse School in Marondera, 50 miles from Harare.

Carrington has been persuaded to return to Zimbabwe by Rupert Pennant-Rea, a Peterhouse Old boy and editor of *The Economist*. "I have always been surprised that nothing had been named after

him, and that there was no memorial as a mark of his contribution to the country," he says. "When I put the idea to Lord Carrington, he was not sure. He said: 'I am sure my name is mud out there with the whites.'"

Nevertheless, he was persuaded, and is due to perform the honours at the school speech day.

● When Russia's oldest orchestra visits Britain next month, what exactly will it be called? Publicity material has already been printed for the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra tour, which begins in Cardiff before arriving at London's Barbican. Yet this week Leningrad officially became St Petersburg. The orchestra is certain to follow suit, but has not yet formally changed its name, and was yesterday said to be "still deliberating". According to a spokesman: "The orchestra definitely



wants to change its title, and if it is altered in time, new publicity material will be used."

The orchestra has undergone several name-changes in the past. It was first known as the Imperial Music choir in 1882, when it performed mainly in aristocratic circles. In 1917 it was changed by

decree into a state orchestra, and a year later it was incorporated into the newly founded Petrograd Philharmonic. When the city became Leningrad in 1924, the name changed again.

But Leningrad will live on in at least one name. Among the works most regularly performed by the orchestra is Shostakovich's 7th symphony, known immutably as the Leningrad symphony.

● Who says Labour has given up its principles? The party may have changed its line on nuclear weapons, on Europe and on public ownership, but one key pledge has survived. In an article for *Punch*, our very own Matthew Parris has analysed the Labour manifestos since the famous "longest suicide note in history" with which the party fought the 1983 election. The only promise retained in every policy document since, says Parris, is the removal of VAT on sanitary towels.

## Cone rangers

THEY deserve a prize for wishful thinking. A group of hoteliers and businessmen has formed the "M25 Meetings Group" to try to attract tourists to venues within the motorway's hinterland. In an attempt to improve the road's image (yes, really), the group is planning a series of motorway "theme nights" at hotels and restaurants within a few minutes of M25 exits. Motorists will soon be invited to "The Three Lane Jungle Dinner" or "The Motorway Madness banquet". Peter Rand, head of the hotel group, says: "The M25 is much maligned. It is not always packed, at least for much of the day." He was speaking from his car on the M1. But then his office is a safe hundred miles or more from the London orbital, somewhere in Coventry.





## RIGHTING LEGAL WRONGS

Now Douglas Hurd has put the cat among the legal pigeons. Yesterday he told the enquiry into recent miscarriages of justice by Sir John May that he favoured an independent body rather than "home secretary's discretion" to handle such cases. Many distinguished lawyers are coming to agree with him. As case after case is now revealing, the British system of judicial review is, as Mr Hurd said, "turning out to be inadequate for the purposes of justice".

Because only he can recommend the exercise of the royal prerogative and only he can refer cases back to the appeal court, the home secretary is at present the one longstop in English criminal justice. But though Kenneth Baker, the present home secretary, is building a reputation as a man who is prepared to reopen dusty files, his predecessor, Mr Hurd, clearly feels such a safeguard is not enough. Such is the convention of British cabinets that one must assume that both men are as one mind on this. As home secretary Mr Hurd had to address three major miscarriages, the Guildford Four, Maguire Seven, and Birmingham Six. As he said yesterday, he failed to act on his misgivings for fear of undermining public confidence. That is the trap politicians will always fall into.

This question is now beyond mere legal table talk. A royal commission on criminal justice is already sitting, but even that will not come soon enough to resolve the next file in Mr Baker's "miscarriages" in-tray. It concerns Derek Bentley, hanged for murder in 1953. Mr Baker should not wait for any new reform to do what everybody now acquainted with the case knows must be done: to recommend Bentley for a posthumous royal pardon.

Mr Baker may take some satisfaction from being able to reverse the injustice done to Bentley by his Tory predecessor at the time, Sir David Maxwell Fyfe. Although convicting Bentley (it now appears mistakenly) for the murder of a policeman, the jury unanimously recommended mercy. In the context of the death penalty in force at the time,

this implied that the sentence should be commuted by the home secretary to life imprisonment. A public petition of 100,000 names reinforced this plea, also in vain. Sir David was under political and judicial pressure not to spare Bentley and he declined to do so. The essence of Mr Hurd's plea is that these should never be political decisions.

By the standards of today, the hanging of Bentley was appalling, but so was the hanging of those who stole sheep in the 18th century. There are particular reasons why even after 38 years the Bentley case cannot be dismissed as past history. His sister Iris still lives and believes profoundly in her brother's innocence. Some of the witnesses are alive, as is Bentley's co-defendant Christopher Craig, who actually killed the policeman. A vast weight of subsequent evidence contradicts the original verdict, while argument will be further stirred by a newly released film, *Let Him Have It*.

Mr Baker has formally reopened the case and asked for a further police investigation. This is likely to raise substantial doubts about the evidence on which the conviction turned. And the royal commission — overlapping with Sir John's more limited enquiry — is looking for a better way of handling miscarriages of justice. The delay in correcting the Bentley injustice is something the commission should add to its agenda.

This and other recent cases show that it is not enough to leave the correction of past injustice to the home secretary of the day, in the hope that he turns out to be reasonably courageous (which in this respect Mr Baker is proving to be). As a rather contrite Mr Hurd proposed yesterday, a structure independent of politics and perhaps of the existing judicial system is needed, either an investigatory bureau or a "court of last resort" or both. It should take up all those cases which "will not go away". The Bentley case has refused to go away for nearly four decades. That is far too long for justice. New legal instruments must be devised if confidence in British justice is not to collapse.

## GERMANY IN EUROPE

An article of faith for Chancellor Helmut Kohl is that post-war Germany must be "anchored" in a wider Europe. This anchor is an ever stronger framework of pan-European institutions. The progressive-minded German looking 25 years ahead thus sees a European union in which the 80 million Germans watch benignly over the smaller nations of both Western and especially Eastern Europe. Federal judicial, executive and legislative structures, modelled on those of Germany, would reduce the threat of a nationalist revival in Germany and in other European states. The interest of a liberal Germany and of the Continent as a whole are thus fused in one federal goal.

On its first birthday, the reunified German state deserves congratulations. An enduring boom in the Western *Länder* has cushioned the Easterners against the bankruptcy of their industries. Though growth is now slowing, living standards have risen. Confusion over property rights has been clarified and there are fewer bureaucratic obstacles to investors. The east German experience is an excellent example for liberalising political economies to the east.

Indeed, it would be easy to paint a wholly flattering portrait of the new Germany, were it not for the historic German dialectic between internationalism and nationalism. This tension, resolved by Bismarck in favour of the nation state, re-emerged after 1945. Now that polarity dominates German politics, in the shape of European federalism and "national pacifism".

Most leaders and opinion-formers of Federal Germany have long seen their destiny in a European federation, not a *Europe des patries*. Yet at Hamburg Castle last week, Helmut Kohl was confident of the survival of German regional traditions in the future Europe. "In the process of creating the united states of Europe," he said, "it will be of particular importance to safeguard the traditions of local self-government as a

structural principle for our democratic federal system." So cloudy is the German sense of identity that regional communities often assume greater importance than the nation. The notion of geographical subsidiarity is well applied to Germany.

Yet few Germans doubt that some concept of a fatherland still exists. When the chance of unification offered itself in the summer of 1990, Chancellor Kohl and his foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, did not consult their allies but clinched a deal while Mr Gorbachev was still willing. Since then, Bonn has consistently taken an independent line, from the Gulf to Yugoslavia to Soviet aid. It is patently reluctant to subsume its highly distinctive *Ostpolitik* into the lowest common denominator of the Twelve, let alone of Nato.

National identity, though complicated by reunification, still matters to ordinary Germans. Sunday's *Land* election in Bremen, in which the extreme right took 7.7 per cent overall and up to a third of the vote in a few poor areas, was a warning signal to the other parties. A wave of violence against non-European asylum-seekers, as well as ethnic Germans and itinerant workers from Eastern Europe, has swept the eastern provinces and may be spreading westwards.

"Unity Day" gives Germans a moment to reflect on the meaning of this ugly xenophobia. It may not mean that the aggressive nationalism of the past is resurgent. But it might suggest caution in pursuing visionary constitutional upheavals which unscrupulous politicians can use to further xenophobic ends. Anti-democratic forces would find it far easier to make headway in a Germany which had sacrificed most of its sovereignty to a supranational European state. The Federal Republic, already a successful synthesis of two very different societies, may be able to withstand the challenge of a revived nationalism. The same cannot yet be said of a federal Europe.

## WAR OF ART

People can be and are constantly replaced; historic cities are for all time. This controversial sentiment comes up every time the guns of war turn their sights on a nation's cultural masterpieces. The world's ethnic hatreds evoke pity and fear in some, but more often the nightly pictures of killing induce only weariness at the stupidities of human behaviour.

If war endangers the ruins of Baalbek or Ankor Wat or, as today, threatens the ancient Dalmatian city of Dubrovnik, however, the whole world feels its bile rising and its cultural inheritance threatened. Surely what has survived for centuries cannot be destroyed? Surely the warring armies can spare the high points of civilisations that came before them?

Dubrovnik, formerly Ragusa, is the most beautiful Croatian town of the Dalmatian coast, dating back to Roman and Byzantine times. It survived earthquakes, the conquests of the Venetians and the Ottomans, the Napoleonic wars and the Balkan upheavals of the last century. The ramparts, red-tiled roofs and stone streets worn smooth by the hurrying sandals of centuries exude a serenity that time has mellowed and that mortars would shatter for ever.

Aggressors know the value of a nation's heritage. Beautiful buildings are the essence of nationhood. It was with calculated intent that the Germans pillaged and burned the tsarist palaces during the siege of Leningrad,

dynamited the old houses of Warsaw one by one and gave orders for the burning of Paris. The RAF's hopes of sparing Cologne Cathedral to demonstrate finer feeling was vitiated by the vengeful destruction of Dresden, the jewel on the Elbe. But even during the last war, truces were arranged to spare buildings if not people: the Bavarians honour the American general who saved Rothenburg and all sides abided by Rome's status of non-belligerence.

Civil wars are always more fierce. Hatreds are stronger, one side's aggression is often directed specifically against the history and culture of the other. The European Community has now all but abandoned hope of enforcing a ceasefire between Serbs and Croats. But could it not at least plead to keep the war away from Split, Dubrovnik and cities whose past belongs as much to all Europeans as to Yugoslavia?

Any such plea might draw the angry charge from desperate villagers and bereaved families that the outside world cares only for buildings not people. This is unfair. The outside world cares for both. The conflict remains a challenge to European as well as to Yugoslavian diplomacy. But if outside efforts at a ceasefire have been in vain, the least the world can do is call down extra damnation on the head of any commander who believes that he advances his cause by shelling art as well as people. Serbians themselves can surely understand this.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### 'Bomber' Harris controversy revived by plan for statue

From Sir Brian Young

Sir, The argument about commemorating the late Sir Arthur Harris of Bomber Command by erecting a statue to him in the Strand (report, September 28; letter, September 30) confuses two things, which have been in confusion ever since 1945.

The superb courage of those who served in the aircrews of Bomber Command deserves to be more widely celebrated. They accepted a likelihood of dying in action which was greater than that of anyone else, apart from German U-boat crews; it certainly exceeded what was required of Fighter Command, and (by some calculations) even of Kamikaze pilots. The courage of our Bomber Command aircrews has been inadequately recognised, largely because we have been uneasy about the consequences of the bombing offensive.

But the wisdom of area bombing is quite another matter. Whether it was once the only thing available to us or not, and whether it diverted German guns and planes or not, the fact remains that it was not an efficient form of warfare and it destroyed far too many civilian lives. Harris persisted with it very stubbornly when better uses of his aircraft were available and were being strongly commended to him by better men.

So, as an inspiring leader of supremely brave men, Harris may deserve a statue; but inscribe, beside the feet of clay, that he insensitively led them in the wrong direction. Yours truly, BRIAN YOUNG, Hill End, Woodhill Avenue, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, September 30.

From Mr William Hetherington  
Sir, It would be unfortunate if readers inferred from your report from Bonn that it is only German people who are disturbed by proposals to erect a statue to Sir Arthur Harris, who commanded the intensive night-bombing raids on German cities in the second world war.

Amongst the most memorable of letters ever appearing in your columns was that of the late George Bell, Bishop of Chichester, on April 17, 1941, asking "If Europe is civilised at all, what can excuse the

bombing of towns by night and the terrorising of non-combatants?"

It seems, however, that the work of the ensuing Bombing Restriction Committee is not yet over if such events are to be commemorated. 50 years on, outside a supposedly Christian church.

It is now generally acknowledged that the policy of night-bombing was consistent with neither humanity nor military necessity. Yet so long as we continue to glorify such gross failures we shall never learn from them.

Yours sincerely, WILLIAM HETHERINGTON (Honorary historian and archivist), Peace Pledge Union, Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, WC1, September 28.

From Mr Malise L. Graham  
Sir, Dresden was a producer of tank components and a vital rail and communications centre for the German eastern front.

In 1945-6, when I was on a mission at the headquarters of the Soviet commander-in-chief for Saxony in Dresden, a city I had known before the war, he concurred that the RAF and USAF attacks (February 1945) were instrumental in forcing the German withdrawal and speeding the Soviet advance.

Indeed the Soviets had requested a series of attacks on major cities along the axis of their advance, of which Dresden was the first. This campaign cost the Russians 100,000 losses against 35,000 for Dresden.

The logic of total war, wherein civilians contribute vitally to the war effort, excludes by definition their immunity from attack.

Yours truly, MALISE GRAHAM, 40 Morris Road, Lewes, Sussex, September 30.

From Dr Giulio Di Vita  
Sir, The overall principle of area bombing was clearly defined on February 15, 1942, by the Chief of Staff, Royal Air Force, Sir Charles Portal, to his deputy, Air Vice-Marshal N. H. Bottomley, in a published official document: The aimings points are to be the built-up areas. *Not* (underlined in the

original) for instance the dockyards or aircraft factories... This must be quite clear if it is not already understood.

Harris was pleased with results achieved on German cities, much less with Italian targets. The published diary of Sir Alexander Cadogan, Churchill's permanent under-secretary for foreign affairs, for November 23, 1942, reads:

The Commander-in-Chief, Bomber Command, is bored, because Italian towns do not burn as well as German: too much marble and stuff.

Yours faithfully, GIULIO DI VITA, Minatuli, Holland Park, Cheveley, Newmarket, Suffolk.

From the Reverend Professor G. C. Stead, FBA

Sir, All who lived through the last war have reason to be grateful to the Royal Air Force. But we need not be proud of a man who, for all his professional skill and dedication, committed the force to acts of destruction devoid of direct military value, of which people of humane and Christian sentiments have long been bitterly ashamed.

The RAF exists to serve the country; the country needs to maintain its honour and not least to regain the trust of our German friends. Surely the RAF has the intelligence to see that these greater values should outweigh its natural desire to commemorate a respected leader.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER STEAD, 13 Station Road, Haddenham, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

From Mr Martin Pinder  
Sir, I have great respect for my parents' generation who fought and lived during the war. I also respect the right for people or groups such as the Bomber Command Association to leave memorials to the war.

If they wish to have a statue of "Bomber" Harris an appropriate place in my view would be a more discreet location such as a bomber airfield or a garden near the Ministry of Defence.

Yours sincerely, MARTIN PINDER, 179-199 route de Rogeland, F-01170, Gex, France, September 28.

### Admission of evidence

From Mr W. E. Bache

Sir, I am prompted by the home secretary's reference to the Blacklock conviction to the Court of Appeal (report, September 27) to draw your readers' attention to the fact that there is no rule of evidence that excludes admissions obtained in the absence of a solicitor. Had there been such a rule, many miscarriages of justice in recent years would have been avoided.

Is it not now time to introduce this safeguard? Its implementation could be quick, simple and relatively inexpensive. It would not be a high price to pay to avoid so much distress and restore something of the tattered reputation of the criminal justice system.

Yours faithfully, W. E. BACHE, Pye-Smiths (Solicitors), The Hall, 4 New Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

### Everyman Library

From Mr Christopher Falkus  
Sir, I enjoyed Bernard Levin's "Enthusiasms" article (Saturday Review, September 21) on the revival of the Everyman Library. He is right to applaud David Campbell's hardback series. Unfortunately his own enthusiasm has led him into serious lapses, writing of "the lingering and shameful death" of the series "a decade or so ago"; of publishers "selling the Everyman rights like a game of pass the parcel" and so on.

In fact, the library continues to be published in paperback by its founding company, J. M. Dent; under the new owners, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, some 150 titles have been reissued in attractive format and at competitive prices over the last 18 months; many more are planned, next year at the rate of six titles per month.

Yours sincerely, CHRISTOPHER FALKUS (Publishing Director), George Weidenfeld & Nicolson Ltd., 91 Clapham High Street, SW4.

### Back and forth

From Mrs Janina Hime

Sir, Thanks to your palindromic publicity of 19.9.1991 (letters, September 21) I talked to my class of 10-11-year-olds about this phenomenon. This morning, Telka Chambers points out that the nine-times table is a palindrome, or at least up to 10 x 9 it is: 09 18 27 36 45 54 63 72 81 90.

How's this for the third R? Yours faithfully, JANINA HIME, Granard Junior School, Westleigh Avenue, Putney, SW15, September 25.

### On the map

From Mrs E. M. Rawling and Mr D. Burdettshaw

Sir, Your leader, "Pushed off the map" (September 25), championed the cause of geography in schools and highlighted some of the constraints and misunderstandings which have made the geography teacher's task more difficult during recent years.

However, the event to which the writer was referring was the conference "Launching the national curriculum in geography", organised by the Royal Geographical Society. The overall tone of that conference was not one of pessimism and concern, but of optimism and enthusiasm to face the challenge ahead.

Practitioners of the subject illustrated how national curriculum geography could be developed in a positive and creative way. The audience of 500 were given a clear view of what could be achieved in curriculum planning and designing assessment in geography and were made aware of the high quality of

support being given by the subject-teaching association, the Geographical Association.

We support the views on the key stage 4 proposals expressed by the Historical Association in their letter of September 27.

All the opportunities which these proposals offer could be destroyed if geography does not have a firm place in the 14-16 curriculum. We urge Mr Clarke to reconsider them and to make sure that geography really can play its part in the national curriculum.

Yours faithfully, ELEANOR M. RAWLING, DAVID BURDETTS, The Geographical Association, 343 Fulwood Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, September 26.

From Mr P. J. Woodman  
Sir, I question the implication in your leading article that a know-

ledge of place-names amounts merely to "rudimentary fact-packing". Place-names do not exist in a vacuum and real knowledge of them involves an appreciation of their geographical, linguistic and political contexts.

Pupils of secondary age can be encouraged to learn that, for example, different atlases from different countries, perhaps concerned with different topics, will not all necessarily choose the same spelling or even the same name for a specific feature: there are linguistic, political and contextual considerations to be taken into account.

They will thus gradually become able to make the appropriate choice of name and their awareness of foreign languages and the political realities of the world can only be enhanced.

Yours faithfully, P. J. WOODMAN (Secretary, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use), c/o The Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, SW7.

### UK's 'shameful' record on aid

From the Chief Executive of ActionAid

Sir, Figures released this week by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development show that Britain's overseas aid has fallen in real terms by 11 per cent since 1989. It is now at its lowest-ever level — just 0.27 per cent of GNP. This compares shamefully with the 1990 donations from Norway (1.17 per cent of GNP), The Netherlands (0.94), Denmark (0.93), Sweden (0.90), France (0.75 or 0.55, depending on the inclusion of overseas territories) and Germany (0.42) and is less generous than every other donor in continental Europe except Austria.

Over the last decade many of the world's poorest countries have implemented tough austerity programmes in an attempt to stabilise their economies and lay the foundations for an attack on poverty. What kind of message is Britain's diminishing contribution meant to give to governments in Africa trying to adjust in the face of debt and low commodity prices?

Yours etc., MARTIN GRIFFITHS, Chief Executive, ActionAid, Hamlyn House, Archway, N19, September 30.

### EC and the law

From Lord Mackenzie-Stuart

Sir, According to your political editor the prime minister regards the Court of Justice of the European Communities "as a politically motivated body that should have no role in shaping member governments' policies" (report, September 26, earlier editions). If this accurately represents the prime minister's belief, which would surprise me, then he should be rapidly disabused of this slur on the court's integrity.

The European treaties, which are agreements reached by the governments of the member states, are the result of political choice. So, too, is every act of Parliament. The court plays no part in that choice. Its function, a purely judicial one, is the Treaty of Rome provides, is to see that the law is observed.

This, of course, includes applying the old common law rule that, where possible, a legal document should be given an intelligible meaning rather than that it should be declared a nullity.

To suggest, as does your report, that the court ignores proper judicial standards, is a calumny. Yours faithfully, MACKENZIE-STUART (President, Court of Justice of the European Communities, 1984-8), Le Garidel, Gravières, 07140 Les Vans, France, September 27.

From Mr Bill Newton Dunn, MEP for Lincolnshire (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, In your leader (September 25) opposing the strengthening of controlling powers of the European Parliament you fail totally to demonstrate any way that our national Parliament could either amend or reject a European Community law which covers 12 countries.

MPs can force a British minister to resign when he returns from Brussels but they cannot amend or overturn the law to which he has committed our country. Only a parliament democratically elected from all 12 countries could exercise the power to reject or amend European laws made on behalf of its 340 million people.

It is a pity that you should appear to favour authority over democracy. Yours sincerely, BILL NEWTON DUNN, 10 Church Lane, Navenby, Lincoln, September 25.

### Yugoslav conflict

From the Marquess of Tweeddale

Sir, Having from the first (July 5, in this House) urged the recognition of Croatia, I am naturally glad to see Lord Wyatt (article, September 24) at last do the same.

But I am less enthusiastic than he about involving troops from outside in the Yugoslav conflict: the Serbs would certainly regard these as invaders, and would fight them. Better, surely, to see that the Croats obtain the advanced weapons and other equipment they need.

Far from anything of this kind, however, Mr Hurd proposes an embargo on all arms to Yugoslavia, which would prejudice Croatia much more than Serbia. Thus the government's ignominious neglect of a small, democratic, near-neighbour of the EC, in favour of its brutal reactionary and larger aggressor, continues.

Yours faithfully, TWEEDDALE, House of Lords, September 25.

### Early to bed . . .

From Mrs Janet Betts

Sir, I pointed out your report (September 26) on recommended children's bedtimes to my eight-year-old son. His immediate and dismissive response was "I suppose that was all figured out by adults".

Yours faithfully, JANET BETTS, Town End, 30 Long Causeway, Leeds, West Yorkshire, September 26.











# Heroes and villains slog it out



DONALD COOPER

## The Pretenders Pit, Barbican

THIS was the play that brought the 36-year-old Ibsen modest success after years of failure, poverty and despair. But what appears primarily to have impressed his Norwegian contemporaries was something hardly of surpassing interest to a modern British audience: the bold, colloquial dialogue he put into the normally stilted mouths of the heroes and villains of his country's medieval past. Can we really be expected to react with much glee to people, colloquial or not, whose very names make the ears of those who are auditioning for his parts in a name of *Dungeons and Dragons* — Dagfinn the Peasant, Trogd the Priest, Inga of Varsteig, Bard Bratte, Ivar Rodde, et al?

On the evidence of Danny Boyle's production, the answer must be a shilly-shallying yes and no. There is a certain fascination in the conflict that gradually emerges during a first act that, even after Chris Hamman's judicious cutting, will leave some spectators shaking their mental compasses as they reach for their bearings. One contender for the throne is Skule, in David Calder's performance a grizzled swell with the ill-fortune to combine Macbeth's enthusiasm for upward mobility with Doolittle's eagerness for racial certainties. The other is Haakon Haakonson, who has a clear political vision of Norwegian unity, and the faith and self-belief to achieve it. As Paterson Joseph plays him, he manages simultaneously to be amiable and authoritative, relaxed and tough, and several other things besides.

Above all, he has that single-mindedness which always impressed

Ibsen and was to characterize many of his creations, from Brand to the Master Builder. Yet the main focus of the first half turns out not to be Haakon, or even Haakon's worsening wrangles with Skule. Rather, it is Bishop Nicholas, a secret fan of Lucifer who spends even his death-throes setting pretender against pretender and organising "perpetual torment" for a Norway which has denied him the power he craved. The play's first English producers tried unsuccessfully to cast Irving in the role; and he would, I suspect, have given a more menacing, wilful performance than Alan MacNaughtan at the Pit, who is sly, serpentine, but not quite dangerous enough.

Nicholas makes a ghostly reappearance in the second half, his delight in discord undimmed even by death, but the play never fully recovers from his passing. There is bustle and battle; and, although it would help if one of his wild Vikings kept cover-

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Playing Sinatra Croydon Warehouse

SOME (perhaps most) three-handers shrink and shrivel before your eyes, presenting underimagined characters in imperfectly conceived settings, failing to fill even the small space of a fringe theatre. You find yourself wishing someone, just anyone, would enter preferably a whole chorus line. But the East End Jewish writer Bernard Kops has written a three-hander which fills its space to bursting-point, and expands outwards with whirling centrifugal force, scattering ideas from its tight central core.

The most obvious fallacy is that of the stage: Michael Pavella's design recreates a family house in Streatham in richly naturalistic detail, with tasselled lampshades casting weird shadows over Warhol-esque multiple images of Frank Sinatra. But the relationship of the occupants outdoes the setting in detail and weirdness. Norman and Sandra have separate bedrooms; she goes out to work, he (a bookbinder) cooks the evening meal; they communicate largely through a shared obsession with *Of Blue Eyes*. No sex, some love, an enormous amount of dependency — a standard Streatham couple? Well, they are actually brother and sister, inheritors of some Gordin family knot which

## Leslie Howard St John's, Smith Square

WITH 25 years of professional concert-going behind him — a fact that this recital of sonatas by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov celebrated — Leslie Howard has had plenty of time in which to develop his remarkably cool assurance, even in the virtuoso music in which he tends to specialise. He is admired widely in the piano world, though the audience on this occasion was a modestly sized one. Armed with

a technique which is more impressive for being so apparently effortless, and seemingly incapable of making the ugly sounds to which too many pianists under pressure resort, he deserves the respect he gets. Yet too often have one felt that he steamrollered over the music, enjoying his ability to meet its physical challenges rather than exploring its spiritual ones, such as they were.

In the case of Rachmaninov's First Piano Sonata, Op 28, apparently inspired by Goethe's *Rassau*, the composer's own assurance was there, with the piece rambling a bit, and the same thought occurred during the better known Second Sonata, Op 36, played

here in its longer first version of 1913. Howard's solution to any structural excesses was in both cases to go for the music hell for leather. Scarcely a pause for breath, hardly a chink of light interrupted his stormy readings of the faster movements, though to look at him you would think he was playing a Bach minuet. Even the Lento sections seemed charged with impatience, for all Howard's beauty of tone.

Tchaikovsky's Third Sonata, Op 37, less dense and torrential music, encouraged a wider variety of colour and articulation. The scherzo, with its rapid exchanges of register and timbre, becomes a brilliantly crisply delivered echo of that in the conten-

poraneous Fourth Symphony. As a bonus we heard Howard's own completion of the surviving fragment of the abandoned F minor Sonata's first movement — a matter of a few bars' worth of pure invention in the development section and of surmising a recapitulation. This exercise in speculation was done convincingly enough, though Tchaikovsky's style, not surprisingly for a man in his early twenties, seems more full of technical device than absolute conviction.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

STEPHEN PITTITT

Arts features, page 15

## NEW RELEASES

**DEKALOG PARTS 1 AND 2 (PG):** First two parts of Krzysztof Kieslowski's marvellous cycle of moral meditations inspired by the Ten Commandments. Essential viewing. Rankin (071-837 8402).

**JACOB'S LADDER (15):** A Vietnam vet (Tim Robbins) is trapped in demon violence and dreams. Frightful, disturbing thriller from the writer of *Ghost* and director Adrian Lyne. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**MISTHUS VILLAGES (12):** Backstage drama while staging *Terrence Rattigan* in Paris, actually observed, but lacking punch. Starring Nels Anstrop, Glenn Close, directed by Iwan Seba, produced by David Putnam. Caramore: Fulham Road (071-370 2336). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**THE OBJECT OF BEAUTY (15):** Lucinda Sykes's comedy about a woman who becomes a model in a tiny London hotel. Visually thin, but pleasingly performed (with John Malkovich, Arnie MacDonell). Curzon West End (071-439 4803). Screen on the Hill (071-435 3388).

**A RAGE IN HARLEM (15):** Bullyproof violence in a comedy-drama. From Chester Himes's novel, an unpleasant mix. Starring Forest Whitaker, Gregory Hines, Robin Givens. Director: Bill Duke. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961). Kensington (071-330 6961). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**RHAPSODY IN AUGUST (15):** Kurosawa's slender drama coming to terms with the atomic bomb. Flashy of poetry among the talk. Richard Gere in a lead. Curzon Mayfair (071-485 8865).

**UNDER SUSPICION (15):** Liam Neeson as a private eye implicated in murder with a femme fatale (Lucie Arnott).

**AT OUR TABLE (PG):** David Morrissey plays a man who comes to terms with his past. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**BOLD GIRLS (15):** A comedy-drama about a woman's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**DANCING AT LUGHANNA (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**MEDDA GABLER (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**GOOD GUY MISS MOLLY (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**HIPPOLYTOS (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**BECKETT (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**REVENGER'S COMEDIES (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**BUNRAKU (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**MORRISSEY (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**JETHRO TULL (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**A SWELL PARTY (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

## CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (A) on release across the country.**

**GLACIO (15):** A British thriller set in Brighton, 1952. Caramore: Park Street (071-430 0371). Odessa: Kensington (071-332 5598). Marble Arch (071-722 2111). Mezzanine (071-330 6111).

**ALICE (12):** Woody Allen's comic fantasy about a Manhattan wife in crisis. Loose and funny, but with a maverick performance from Mia Farrow. Caramore: Parkway (071-337 7034).

**CLOSE MY EYES (15):** Sexual games between brother and sister one long hot London summer, vividly portrayed by writer-director Stephen Poliakoff and an excellent cast (Sandra Reavey, Chloë Sevigny, Alexei Gerasimov). Caramore: Park Street (071-430 0371). Odessa: Kensington (071-332 5598).

**JINGLE FEVER (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**PARIS TROUPE (15):** Dennis Hopper's redneck Southern redneck drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**NEW JACK CITY (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**THUNDERBIRDS F.A.B. - THE NEXT GENERATION (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**THE KNOCKERS (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**LADY DAY AT EMMERSON'S BAR (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**OUR TOWNS (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**PEOPLES (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**THE PHILANTHROPIST (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**TANGO AT THE END OF WINTER (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**THREE BIRDS ALIGHTING ON A FIELD (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**ERNEST BESKAT (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (15):** A comedy-drama about a man's life in a male world. Caramore: Chelms (071-332 5598). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-330 6961).

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## WORD-WATCHING

**Answers from page 22**

**NOOK-NOOK** (c) A derogatory slang for a young, aggressive devotee of rock music. "These kids are nooks," off their heads on ecstasy, trans-dancing in front of the lights, wearing the wrong sort of clothes. It's a great big sweaty lunge for all of people who don't know each other."

**SWEVEN** (c) A dream or vision, from the Old English *svegan* a dream or sleep. "Mary Mother she stooped from Heaven/She wakened Earl Harold out of his swoon."

**SURAL** (c) Of or pertaining to the calf of the leg, from the Latin *suralis* a calf. "The calf of a baller-dancer, in which the sural muscles were affected."

**CHOLI** (c) A short, short-sleeved blouse, often worn under a sari by Indian women, from Hindi *choli*, from the Sanskrit, but probably of Dravidian origin. "Her sari was pale green, and under it the choli was almost transparent."

**ENTERTAINMENTS**

**ART GALLERIES**

**THE MEDICAL GALLERIES**

**CINEMAS**

**THEATRES**

**OPERA & BALLET**

**THEATRES**

**OPERA & BALLET**

**THEATRES**

**OPERA & BALLET**

**THEATRES**



## THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1991

## BBC 1

- 6.00 Cee-fax**  
**6.30 Breakfast News** beginning with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Laurie May and Fiona Foster present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and traffic bulletins.  
**9.05 Perfect Strangers**, American comedy series presented by Donald MacCormick. The fourth day's proceedings this morning the party celebrates its proposed "quality revolution" and how it will affect health, the environment and transport.  
**10.00 News**, regional news and weather **10.05 Playdays (r)** **10.25 The Family News**, cartoon adventures of a family of aquatic monsters (r).  
**10.35 Labour Party Conference**, further live coverage from Brighton. Includes news and weather at 10.00 and 11.00, 12.55 Regional news and weather.  
**1.00 One O'Clock News** and weather.  
**1.30 Neighbours**, (Cee-fax) (s) **1.50 Four Squares**, General knowledge knock out quiz, presented by John Sheehy.  
**2.15 Film: Some Girls Do (1989)** starring Richard Johnson, Delia Lavi and Maurice Denham. Dim spy spoof with Johnson as secret agent programmed to sabotage the testing of Britain's first supersonic jet. Directed by Ralph Thomas.  
**3.45 Bridging Sydney Harbour**, A pictorial history of the building of Sydney Harbour Bridge.  
**3.50 Spider**, Animated adventures of a young boy and his invertebrate arachnid (s). **4.00 Broom**, Cartoon adventures of a small car housed in a motor museum. **4.05 Get Your Own Back**, Dave Benson Phillips presents the game show that offers children to turn the tables on an assortment of adults including parents, teachers, a dentist and a sex instructor (s). **4.20 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r)**.  
**4.35 Uncle Jack and the Loch Nook Monster**, The first of a new series of adventures about an ancient green activist, played by Paul Jones. (Cee-fax) (s) **5.00 Newsround** **5.10 Blue Peter**, Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane Louise Jordan celebrate the cartoon character Fred Flintstone's 30th birthday. Investigate world animal day and meet two Sumo wrestlers. (Cee-fax) (s).  
**5.35 Neighbours (r)**, (Cee-fax) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster.  
**6.00 Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather **6.30 Regional News** magazines, Northern Ireland: Neighbours **7.00 Top of the Pops**, The 14,431st edition of the long-running series which began in the 1960s sees a comprehensive re-vamp to take in the American charts and tracks from the top ten album charts, as well as more live performances and fewer promotional videos. All this and new opening titles and a new signature tune. (Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1) (s).  
**7.30 EastEnders**, (Cee-fax) (s).  
**8.00 'Allo! 'Allo! More French Resistance** frolics, as René (Gordon Kaye) draws the short straw when he is appointed editor of the local paper that General Von Klinkenhoff has coopered as a propaganda sheet. Meanwhile a picnic organised by the general has two unexpected caterers (r). (Cee-fax).  
**8.30 Waiting for God**, More fun and games with the eccentric geriatrics Diana and Tom, reluctant residents of the eccentric Retirement Home. This week Diana has to cope with a recalcitrant niece known as the "Clapham Stranger" and Tom decides that honesty is the best policy and decides to tell the truth at all times. Starring Stephanie Cole and Graham Crowden. (Cee-fax) (s).  
**9.00 Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather.  
**9.30 Smith and Jones**, Another selection of clips from Mel and Griff's most recent comedy series. (Cee-fax).  
**10.00 Question Time** introduced by Peter Sissons from Sussex University's Gardner Arts Centre. The guests are MPs Jack Cunningham, Norman Tebbit, Clare Short and Charles Jackman. (Cee-fax).  
**11.00 Capital News**, Strong drama series set in the office of a Washington newspaper, this week involving an investigation into the activities of a black community leader. Starring Lloyd Bridges.  
**11.45 Weather**.

## BBC 2

- 6.00 News**  
**8.15 The Travel Show UK Mini-Guides**, What to do and where to go in Warwick (r).  
**8.20 The Shogun Inheritance**, The first of a six-part series examining how the spirit of the samurai still exists in contemporary Japan (r).  
**9.00 Daytime on Two**, Educational programmes.  
**2.15 Labour Party Conference**, The afternoon session includes debates on housing, local government, rural affairs and arts and leisure. Presented by Donald MacCormick, Vivian White and Ian Smith. With news and weather at 2.00 and 3.50.  
**5.30 John Townd's Entertaining on a Plate**, The food expert prepares a menu for his enthusiastic audience of amateur cooks.  
**6.00 Film: The Sheepster (1988)** starring Glenn Ford and Shirley MacLaine. An engaging tongue-in-cheek western about a sheep rancher who runs into trouble when driving his flock through cattle country, upsetting the local beef baron. Directed by George Marshall.  
**7.20 Animation Now: Pas à Deux** in which a dancing couple change into unlikely partners.  
**7.30 First Sight: A Day of Reasoning**, Michael Delahaye reports on the impact of the BCCI collapse on Britain's most prosperous Asian community, in Southall, west London. East: Matter of Fact: Midlands: Midlands Report; North: North-east and North-west: Close Up North; South: Southern Eye; South-west: Western Approach; West: Current Account; Northern Ireland: Tomorrow's World; Wales: Between Ourselves.  
**8.00 A Taste of Japan** presented by Lesley Downer and Minoru Yoshida. Japanese cuisine series. This week - despoiled dishes and dressed salads.  
**8.30 Top Gear**, Tiff Needell reports from Florida on drag racing; Chris Goffey test drives the Toyota Camry; and Jeremy Clarkson looks at the future of pollution-free transport.  
**9.00 Alexei Sayle's Stuff**, After his triumphant portrayal of the forger of the Hitler diaries, the portly funster is back for a third series of his own stuff. As with many comedians who start by trying to subvert the conventions, Sayle has gradually mellowed and the 1991 model is unlikely to prompt the same outrage as previous incarnations. Nor, it might be said, is the show to be typical, in the content as daring as it once was, with many of the sketches based on relatively easy targets from the movies and television. Thus we kick off with an Arnold Schwarzenegger spoof, which is a case almost of a parody of a parody, and go on to pieces inspired by American TV entertainment, wildlife documentaries and the British film industry. But there are some sharp pages and at his best Sayle is still fresh, inspired and gloriously anarchic (s).  
**9.30 Putting Poland to rights: Sir John Harvey-Jones (9.30pm)**  
**9.30 Troubleshotter in Eastern Europe**.  
**9.40 CHOICE**, Working through his wardrobe of bright ties, Sir John Harvey-Jones travels east to give his forthright assessment of economies struggling to make the transition from communism to the free market. Tonight's programme finds our hero in Poland for a characteristic display of genial guffaws and blunt speaking. Visiting a glass factory with its technology stuck in the middle ages, he tells the boss that the only way to get on is to shut much of it down, tonight if possible. Emerging from a session with the company accountant, Sir John observes: "That was a good old load of Polish bullshit". Even President Lech Walesa is not spared the courteous leashing tongue. As in his British *Troubleshotter* programmes, Sir John is very high on entertainment value, though you feel that the difficulties of the Polish economy are too complex to be sorted out in a living year and a few tough lectures.  
**10.30 Newsnight**.  
**11.15 The American Late Show**, In this first of a new monthly strand of *The Late Show* presented by Robert Kruvick from the United States, director Spike Lee talks about the trouble he encountered making his film *Malcolm X* (s).  
**11.55 Weather**.  
**12.00 Open University: Getting Our Act Together**, Ends at 12.30am.

## BBC 3

- 6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only)**, Maths - Exam Revision  
**6.55am News**, News Headlines  
**7.00 Morning Concert**, Dvorak (Overture, Orlago); Schubert (An Alpine, D 981); Schubert (D 980); Salieri (Overture, Faust) 7.30 News  
**7.35 Morning Concert (cont)**, Purcell (Masque in Timon of Athens); Verdi (Egmont music, Macbeth); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy overture, Romeo and Juliet)  
**8.30 News**  
**8.35 Composers of the Week: Mozart in Vienna, 1784-85**, Overture, D 488; Horn Concerto No 4 in E flat, K 495; Masonic Funeral Music, K 477/478; Masonic Song; Zarzuela (Overture, Les Deux Femmes); K 483; Quintet in E flat, K 452  
**9.35 The Levitation**, ... Music about whales and whaling. Heydon (The Creation, Part 2: City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Simon Rattle); Mennin (Concertos for Orchestra: The English Baroque Soloists, American Recording Society Orchestra under Hans Swarowsky); Chaisson (Jonas Monteverdi Choir; Members of the English Baroque Soloists, John John Eliot Gardiner); George Crumb (Vox Balneae; Zizi Mueller, flute, Fred Sherry, cello, James Garmann, piano); Hermann (Moby Dick) (Concept); Aedon Singers; London Philharmonic Orchestra under the composer)  
**11.15 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra** under Tadaaki Otaka performs Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D, Op 61) Dong-Sung Kang; Strauss (Ein Heldenleben)  
**1.00am News**  
**1.05 Birmingham Lunchtime Concert**, Live from the Town Hall, Birmingham. Thomas Trotter, organ plays Langlais (Diapason sur les mœurs, Suite Brève); Mozart (Adagio and Allegro in F, K 594); Mendelssohn (Overture, A Midsummer Night's Dream); Gulltman (Sonata No 1 in D minor)  
**2.45 Mozart in Vienna (r)**  
**2.45 Les Musiciens du Louvre** under Marc Minkowski perform Handel's opera in three acts, *Isis* a libretto attributed to Nicola Haym, sung in Italian.

## BBC 4

- 6.00 News**  
**8.15 The Travel Show UK Mini-Guides**, What to do and where to go in Warwick (r).  
**8.20 The Shogun Inheritance**, The first of a six-part series examining how the spirit of the samurai still exists in contemporary Japan (r).  
**9.00 Daytime on Two**, Educational programmes.  
**2.15 Labour Party Conference**, The afternoon session includes debates on housing, local government, rural affairs and arts and leisure. Presented by Donald MacCormick, Vivian White and Ian Smith. With news and weather at 2.00 and 3.50.  
**5.30 John Townd's Entertaining on a Plate**, The food expert prepares a menu for his enthusiastic audience of amateur cooks.  
**6.00 Film: The Sheepster (1988)** starring Glenn Ford and Shirley MacLaine. An engaging tongue-in-cheek western about a sheep rancher who runs into trouble when driving his flock through cattle country, upsetting the local beef baron. Directed by George Marshall.  
**7.20 Animation Now: Pas à Deux** in which a dancing couple change into unlikely partners.  
**7.30 First Sight: A Day of Reasoning**, Michael Delahaye reports on the impact of the BCCI collapse on Britain's most prosperous Asian community, in Southall, west London. East: Matter of Fact: Midlands: Midlands Report; North: North-east and North-west: Close Up North; South: Southern Eye; South-west: Western Approach; West: Current Account; Northern Ireland: Tomorrow's World; Wales: Between Ourselves.  
**8.00 A Taste of Japan** presented by Lesley Downer and Minoru Yoshida. Japanese cuisine series. This week - despoiled dishes and dressed salads.  
**8.30 Top Gear**, Tiff Needell reports from Florida on drag racing; Chris Goffey test drives the Toyota Camry; and Jeremy Clarkson looks at the future of pollution-free transport.  
**9.00 Alexei Sayle's Stuff**, After his triumphant portrayal of the forger of the Hitler diaries, the portly funster is back for a third series of his own stuff. As with many comedians who start by trying to subvert the conventions, Sayle has gradually mellowed and the 1991 model is unlikely to prompt the same outrage as previous incarnations. Nor, it might be said, is the show to be typical, in the content as daring as it once was, with many of the sketches based on relatively easy targets from the movies and television. Thus we kick off with an Arnold Schwarzenegger spoof, which is a case almost of a parody of a parody, and go on to pieces inspired by American TV entertainment, wildlife documentaries and the British film industry. But there are some sharp pages and at his best Sayle is still fresh, inspired and gloriously anarchic (s).  
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**9.30 Troubleshotter in Eastern Europe**.  
**9.40 CHOICE**, Working through his wardrobe of bright ties, Sir John Harvey-Jones travels east to give his forthright assessment of economies struggling to make the transition from communism to the free market. Tonight's programme finds our hero in Poland for a characteristic display of genial guffaws and blunt speaking. Visiting a glass factory with its technology stuck in the middle ages, he tells the boss that the only way to get on is to shut much of it down, tonight if possible. Emerging from a session with the company accountant, Sir John observes: "That was a good old load of Polish bullshit". Even President Lech Walesa is not spared the courteous leashing tongue. As in his British *Troubleshotter* programmes, Sir John is very high on entertainment value, though you feel that the difficulties of the Polish economy are too complex to be sorted out in a living year and a few tough lectures.  
**10.30 Newsnight**.  
**11.15 The American Late Show**, In this first of a new monthly strand of *The Late Show* presented by Robert Kruvick from the United States, director Spike Lee talks about the trouble he encountered making his film *Malcolm X* (s).  
**11.55 Weather**.  
**12.00 Open University: Getting Our Act Together**, Ends at 12.30am.

## BBC 5

- 6.00 News**  
**8.15 The Travel Show UK Mini-Guides**, What to do and where to go in Warwick (r).  
**8.20 The Shogun Inheritance**, The first of a six-part series examining how the spirit of the samurai still exists in contemporary Japan (r).  
**9.00 Daytime on Two**, Educational programmes.  
**2.15 Labour Party Conference**, The afternoon session includes debates on housing, local government, rural affairs and arts and leisure. Presented by Donald MacCormick, Vivian White and Ian Smith. With news and weather at 2.00 and 3.50.  
**5.30 John Townd's Entertaining on a Plate**, The food expert prepares a menu for his enthusiastic audience of amateur cooks.  
**6.00 Film: The Sheepster (1988)** starring Glenn Ford and Shirley MacLaine. An engaging tongue-in-cheek western about a sheep rancher who runs into trouble when driving his flock through cattle country, upsetting the local beef baron. Directed by George Marshall.  
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**10.30 Newsnight**.  
**11.15 The American Late Show**, In this first of a new monthly strand of *The Late Show* presented by Robert Kruvick from the United States, director Spike Lee talks about the trouble he encountered making his film *Malcolm X* (s).  
**11.55 Weather**.  
**12.00 Open University: Getting Our Act Together**, Ends at 12.30am.

## BBC 6

- 6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only)**, Maths - Exam Revision  
**6.55am News**, News Headlines  
**7.00 Morning Concert**, Dvorak (Overture, Orlago); Schubert (An Alpine, D 981); Schubert (D 980); Salieri (Overture, Faust) 7.30 News  
**7.35 Morning Concert (cont)**, Purcell (Masque in Timon of Athens); Verdi (Egmont music, Macbeth); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy overture, Romeo and Juliet)  
**8.30 News**  
**8.35 Composers of the Week: Mozart in Vienna, 1784-85**, Overture, D 488; Horn Concerto No 4 in E flat, K 495; Masonic Funeral Music, K 477/478; Masonic Song; Zarzuela (Overture, Les Deux Femmes); K 483; Quintet in E flat, K 452  
**9.35 The Levitation**, ... Music about whales and whaling. Heydon (The Creation, Part 2: City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Simon Rattle); Mennin (Concertos for Orchestra: The English Baroque Soloists, American Recording Society Orchestra under Hans Swarowsky); Chaisson (Jonas Monteverdi Choir; Members of the English Baroque Soloists, John John Eliot Gardiner); George Crumb (Vox Balneae; Zizi Mueller, flute, Fred Sherry, cello, James Garmann, piano); Hermann (Moby Dick) (Concept); Aedon Singers; London Philharmonic Orchestra under the composer)  
**11.15 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra** under Tadaaki Otaka performs Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D, Op 61) Dong-Sung Kang; Strauss (Ein Heldenleben)  
**1.00am News**  
**1.05 Birmingham Lunchtime Concert**, Live from the Town Hall, Birmingham. Thomas Trotter, organ plays Langlais (Diapason sur les mœurs, Suite Brève); Mozart (Adagio and Allegro in F, K 594); Mendelssohn (Overture, A Midsummer Night's Dream); Gulltman (Sonata No 1 in D minor)  
**2.45 Mozart in Vienna (r)**  
**2.45 Les Musiciens du Louvre** under Marc Minkowski perform Handel's opera in three acts, *Isis* a libretto attributed to Nicola Haym, sung in Italian.

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am**  
**9.25 Runway**, Quiz game show (s) **9.55 Thames News** and weather  
**10.00 The Time ... the Place ...**, Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject.  
**10.40 This Morning**, Magazine series on family matters  
**12.10 The Riddlers**, Children's puppet series (r)  
**12.30 News** with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 Thames News and weather  
**1.20 Home and Away**, Australian family drama serial. (Oracle)  
**1.50 Rugby World Cup 91**.  
**CHOICE**, More than 75 hours of rugby in just over a month are launched at Twickenham where the world cup champions, New Zealand, start the defence of their title against England. Never has the game featured so strongly on television, and never have peak time schedules been cleared for it. More than that, the tournament is on ITV and not rugby's traditional television channel, the BBC. The TV's chief anchorman, Frank Bough, has stirred the pot by calling the BBC approach "stuffy" and promising coverage that is "bouncy, argumentative and, hopefully, amusing". So our dear old Bill McLaren and in comes a commentary and a commentary team of former internationalists led this afternoon by John Taylor. McLaren, however, will be on BBC radio and those who prefer him can follow the example of those cricket fans who listen to the radio commentary while watching the TV pictures.  
**4.45 Count Duckula**, Animated adventures (r)  
**5.10 Who's the Boss?**, American domestic comedy series starring John Papparo (s) New Zealand. Plus reviews of New Zealand's 1990 World Cup performance.  
**5.40 News** with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather  
**5.55 Thames Help**, Jackie Sprockley with the last in her series on issues affecting London's lesbian and gay communities  
**6.00 Home and Away (r)**, (Oracle)  
**6.30 Thames News**, (Oracle)  
**7.00 Enormous**, Topical soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)  
**7.30 Jimmy's**, Another visit to St James's hospital, Leeds, to follow the fortunes of the patients and staff.  
**8.00 The Bill: Last We Forget**, Chief Supt Brownlow's involvement in a murder enquiry 17 years ago comes under the close scrutiny of DCC Alan Fuller, who is in charge of investigating the corruption case. Starring Peter Firth and Michael Elphinstone.  
**8.30 This Week: Twisting Up Your Prejudices**, An investigation into the epidemic of twinning - taking cars without the owners' consent - which has led to Norwich Union putting up premiums by at least 20 per cent. Owners of high performance cars favoured by "twins" may find themselves paying 75 per cent more. Culpits and victims are interviewed, as well as the assistant chief constable of Merseyside, Michael Argant. (Oracle)  
**9.00 Minder**, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. More delicious low-life comedy starring George Cole as the shady entrepreneur Arthur Daley. At the funeral of a local villain Arthur meets a big-time minister (Michael Gambon) who promises a place of the action on his next big job. Gary Webster continues to score as the new minister. (Oracle)  
**10.00 News** with Alan Stewart and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather  
**10.40 The City Programme**, Starring's performance one year on from ERM entry is examined.  
**11.19 Rugby World Cup 91**, Frank Bough introduces highlights of the opening ceremony and the first match of the tournament - England v New Zealand. Plus reviews of New Zealand's games between Australia and Argentina and France v Romania.  
**12.10am Prisoner: Cell Block H**, Drama serial set in an Australian women's remand centre.  
**1.00 The Concert** featuring the Orphy Robinson Quartet (s)  
**2.00 Film: Call Him Savage (1975)** starring Yves Montand and Catherine Deneuve. French comedy about a businessman, on his way to a desert island to escape his wife, who is joined by a runaway heiress. Directed by Jean YVES ESCOFFIER.  
**4.00 The Twilight Zone: What Are Friends For?** A tale of the supernatural starring Fred Savage of *The Wonder Years* series and Tom Skerritt.  
**4.30 America's Top Ten (r)** (s) **5.00 Videofashion (r)**  
**5.30 ITN Morning News** with Phil Morris. Ends at 6.00.

## ITV 2

- 6.00 News**  
**8.15 The Travel Show UK Mini-Guides**, What to do and where to go in Warwick (r).  
**8.20 The Shogun Inheritance**, The first of a six-part series examining how the spirit of the samurai still exists in contemporary Japan (r).  
**9.00 Daytime on Two**, Educational programmes.  
**2.15 Labour Party Conference**, The afternoon session includes debates on housing, local government, rural affairs and arts and leisure. Presented by Donald MacCormick, Vivian White and Ian Smith. With news and weather at 2.00 and 3.50.  
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**6.00 Film: The Sheepster (1988)** starring Glenn Ford and Shirley MacLaine. An engaging tongue-in-cheek western about a sheep rancher who runs into trouble when driving his flock through cattle country, upsetting the local beef baron. Directed by George Marshall.  
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**10.30 Newsnight**.  
**11.15 The American Late Show**, In this first of a new monthly strand of *The Late Show* presented by Robert Kruvick from the United States, director Spike Lee talks about the trouble he encountered making his film *Malcolm X* (s).  
**11.55 Weather**.  
**12.00 Open University: Getting Our Act Together**, Ends at 12.30am.

## ITV 3

- 6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only)**, Maths - Exam Revision  
**6.55am News**, News Headlines  
**7.00 Morning Concert**, Dvorak (Overture, Orlago); Schubert (An Alpine, D 981); Schubert (D 980); Salieri (Overture, Faust) 7.30 News  
**7.35 Morning Concert (cont)**, Purcell (Masque in Timon of Athens); Verdi (Egmont music, Macbeth); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy overture, Romeo and Juliet)  
**8.30 News**  
**8.35 Composers of the Week: Mozart in Vienna, 1784-85**, Overture, D 488; Horn Concerto No 4 in E flat, K 495; Masonic Funeral Music, K 477/478; Masonic Song; Zarzuela (Overture, Les Deux Femmes); K 483; Quintet in E flat, K 452  
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**11.15 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra** under Tadaaki Otaka performs Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D, Op 61) Dong-Sung Kang; Strauss (Ein Heldenleben)  
**1.00am News**  
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**2.45 Mozart in Vienna (r)**  
**2.45 Les Musiciens du Louvre** under Marc Minkowski perform Handel's opera in three acts, *Isis* a libretto attributed to Nicola Haym, sung in Italian.

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel 4 Daily**  
**9.25 Schools**  
**12.00 Something to Treasure**, In the penultimate programme of his series on collecting Geoffrey Bond gives £50 each to three children to see what they would buy at an antiques fair.  
**12.30 Business Daily**  
**1.00 Sesame Street**, The first of a new series of the award-winning preschool learning series. Today's guest is award-winning actress Whoopi Goldberg.  
**2.00 The March of Time** introduced by Murray Sayle (b/w). Today's programme features two films illustrating the revolution in morality brought about by the second world war - *Subject for Discussion*, which deals with venereal disease, and *Youth in Crisis* which examines drug abuse, alcoholism and delinquency among American adolescents (r).  
**2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket**, Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the Westminster-Motor Tax Insurance Godolphin Stakes (2.35); the Taglienter Champagne Nursery Handicap Stakes (3.05); the Newgate Stud Middle Park Stakes (3.40); and the Ludbrook Handicap (4.10).  
**4.30 Fifteen-to-One**, Quick-fire general knowledge quiz, presented by William G. Stewart (s).  
**5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Living with a Zealot**, A psychologist helps activists and their partners to achieve a balance between campaigning zeal and domestic peace.  
**5.55 Wilo the Wisp**, Animated adventures set in a magical forest.  
**6.00 The Time Tunnel**, American 1960s sci-fi series starring Robert Colbert and James Darren as two scientists caught in a time-war. Today Tony and Doug materialise in the Italian Alps during the first world war.  
**7.00 Channel 4 News** with Nicholas Owen and Zensab Badawi in London and Jon Snow at the Labour party conference in Brighton (Teletext).  
**8.00 Women of Wisdom**, This last in the series profiles Tibetan Buddhist Tsultrim Allione who lives near New York where she writes and runs retreats. (Teletext).  
**8.30 Bagdad Cafe**, American comedy series starring Whoopi Goldberg and Jean Stapleton as two housewives in a remote desert eating house.

## CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 News**  
**8.15 The Travel Show UK Mini-Guides**, What to do and where to go in Warwick (r).  
**8.20 The Shogun Inheritance**, The first of a six-part series examining how the spirit of the samurai still exists in contemporary Japan (r).  
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**11.55 Weather**.  
**12.00 Open University: Getting Our Act Together**, Ends at 12.30am.

## CHANNEL 6

- 6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only)**, Maths - Exam Revision  
**6.55am News**, News Headlines  
**7.00 Morning Concert**, Dvorak (Overture, Orlago); Schubert (An Alpine, D 981); Schubert (D 980); Salieri (Overture, Faust) 7.30 News  
**7.35 Morning Concert (cont)**, Purcell (Masque in Timon of Athens); Verdi (Egmont music, Macbeth); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy overture, Romeo and Juliet)  
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**1.00am News**  
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**2.45 Mozart in Vienna (r)**  
**2.45 Les Musiciens du Louvre** under Marc Minkowski perform Handel's opera in three acts, *Isis* a libretto attributed to Nicola Haym, sung in Italian.

## CHANNEL 7

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**6.55am News**, News Headlines  
**7.00 Morning Concert**, Dvorak (Overture, Orlago); Schubert (An Alpine, D 981); Schubert (D 980); Salieri (Overture, Faust) 7.30 News  
**7.35 Morning Concert (cont)**, Purcell (Masque in Timon of Athens); Verdi (Egmont music, Macbeth); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy overture, Romeo and Juliet)  
**8.30 News**  
**8.35 Composers of the Week: Mozart in Vienna, 1784-85**, Overture, D 488; Horn Concerto No 4 in E flat, K 495; Masonic Funeral Music, K 477/478; Masonic Song; Zarzuela (Overture, Les Deux Femmes); K 483; Quintet in E flat, K 452  
**9.35 The Levitation**, ... Music about whales and whaling. Heydon (The Creation, Part 2: City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Simon Rattle); Mennin (Concertos for Orchestra: The English Baroque Soloists, American Recording Society Orchestra under Hans Swarowsky); Chaisson (Jonas Monteverdi Choir; Members







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● SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 30  
● LAW REPORT 30  
● SPORT 31-36

# THE TIMES BUSINESS

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1991

Business Editor  
John Bell

## ASB to bring loans to book

BANKS and mortgage lenders will no longer be able to shift loans off their balance sheet by packaging them as securities and selling the prime interest, under new proposals from the Accounting Standards Board.

The ASB argues that where the special institution that made the loans still has an interest in the profits earned on them, however indirectly, they should remain in the books along with the funds borrowed to finance them.

The ruling, if confirmed, is likely to slow the fast-growing practice of securitisation drastically. It represents a reversal of earlier proposals from the former accounting standards committee, which followed the Bank of England's treatment of securitised mortgages.

Securitisation has typically been used to refinance low-risk mortgages. The ASB is more worried at the spread of the practice to credit card and car loans and property developments, where it might be used as a method of making lenders' balance sheets look better.

The ASB emphasises that including such securitised loans on the balance sheets of the original lenders should not require them to raise more capital because it will not affect the Bank of England's treatment of securitised assets in calculating risk asset ratios for prudential purposes.

The standard is due to be published around the end of the year.

Closing the gap, page 25

## Higgs payout

Higgs and Hill says it will review its dividend policy at the year end after reporting interim pre-tax profits down from £3.57 million to £1.06 million, out of which an unchanged but uncovered 6p interim dividend is paid.

Tempus, page 26

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.7530 (+0.0055)  
German mark 2.9126 (-0.0014)  
Exchange index 91.2 (+0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

## STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 2037.9 (+2.0)  
FT-SE 100 2644.2 (-1.4)  
New York Dow Jones 3020.57 (+2.24)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24375.11 (-1.90)

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:  
Yule Catto 209p (+12p)  
Cable & Wireless 589p (+11p)  
Eurochem 652p (+45p)  
Blenheim Group 407p (+15p)  
News Corp 248p (+14p)  
Ultramar 147p (+19p)  
Kelsey Ind 487p (+15p)  
ADT 487p (+11p)  
Gespac 255p (+10p)  
Security Services 415p (+10p)  
FALLS:  
Woolley 32p (-15p)  
TI 623p (-10p)  
A MacAlpine 214p (-12p)  
Higgs & Hill 201p (-22p)  
Rainers Group 422p (-17p)  
Assoc British Ports 372p (-12p)

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%  
3-month Interbank 10%+10p  
3-month eligible bills 9%+2p  
US: Prime Rate 8%  
Federal Funds 5 1/8%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5.10-5.08%  
3-year bonds 10 1/8-10 3/8%

## CURRENCIES

London:  
£ \$1.7515  
DM 2.9136  
Sfr 2.5441  
FF 6.5284  
Yen 162.34  
Index 91.2  
ECU 10.702940  
ECU 1.422596  
London forex market close

## GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$354.40 pm \$358.00  
close \$355.25 \$355.75 (2002 65-203 15)  
New York:  
Comex \$355.55-356.05

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$21.30 bbl (\$21.25)

## RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 August (1987-100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## GEC denies talks of merger with British Aerospace



Weinstock: calming effect

By ROSS THOMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD Weinstock's General Electric Company, Britain's second biggest defence contractor, yesterday specifically denied that it had held merger talks with the troubled British Aerospace.

The denial helped to calm BAE shares which had risen on reports that the City was being canvassed for support in an international break-up bid for the company.

BAE is under growing pressure to choose a new chairman and is acutely aware that the appointment of Sir Graham Day, interim chairman in place of Professor Sir

Roland Smith has failed to quell City doubts triggered by its bungled £432 million rights issue. Dissatisfaction has led to exploratory talks in City circles with a view to involving European aerospace companies in dismantling the group, according to a leading businessman who declined to be involved. Shares in BAE rose 25p yesterday to 435p after reports of attempts to assemble a bid consortium, but quickly fell back to 415p.

Sources close to BAE dismissed the possibility of a consortium bid, pointing to political, as well as practical, difficulties. Lord Weinstock's General Electric Com-

pany, Britain's second biggest defence contractor, which would certainly have to be involved to satisfy defence ministry concerns, specifically denied it had held merger talks with BAE.

However, GEC would be content to be a partner in the defence business once the chairmanship of BAE is settled. Sir John Nott and Sir Christopher Hogg, of Courtaulds, have been mentioned as possible chairmen.

Numerous City institutions have been hit by the heavy fall in BAE's shares and institutional investors would be deeply unhappy if the shares were to slump below the 380p

at which the company is seeking to restore its balance sheet through a rights issue.

But any attempt by outsiders to break the company down to its core business would face immense problems. The sheer complexity of BAE's operations, its strategic role in weapons programmes and its plethora of international links mean any bid would take months of preparation. Also, its massive sales of defence equipment to Saudi Arabia, under the Al Yamamah programme, worth more than £10 billion, are secured only by a memorandum of understanding between the British and Saudi govern-

ments. There are fears that the loss of key individuals in BAE's management could lead the Saudis to switch purchases to American contractors.

Despite the uncertainty, BAE's Rover car company yesterday announced plans to produce three new cars in partnership with Honda, which owns a 20 per cent stake in the subsidiary. A new deal with Honda, signed yesterday, will involve £180 million of new investment in Rover plants, and improve collaboration between the Rover and Honda's UK operations.

Rover team, page 2  
Comment, page 25

## FBI examines Lloyd's role in America

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE FBI has begun making preliminary enquiries into how American citizens were recruited as names at Lloyd's of London during the Eighties.

The move follows a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation into the status of Lloyd's capital-raising activities in America under federal securities laws. The involvement of the FBI suggests that American authorities are widening the net to examine the possibility that American names were the victims of fraud when they were signed up by Lloyd's agents.

An American name who was placed on the disastrous Feltrim and Gooda Walker syndicates said he was contacted by an FBI agent by telephone this week. He was asked to provide documentation and information relating to his recruitment and membership of Lloyd's. The name said: "The agent knew more about it than I did. He had a tremendous degree of knowledge about Lloyd's."

The name, who has also been contacted by the SEC, added that he has asked his members' agent five times for the relevant information, but has yet to receive any re-

sponse. He also said that he has faxed a list of several hundred loss-making American names to the FBI agent.

The name said that his members' agent doubled his participation on Feltrim managed syndicates in 1989 when the three Feltrim syndicates made huge losses as a result of their reinsurance of catastrophe losses, such as the Piper Alpha oil platform explosion. Lloyd's has already launched its own independent review, under the chairmanship of Sir Patrick Neill, QC, of the Feltrim losses.

An FBI spokesman said he was not aware of an investigation into Lloyd's, but that he would not be able to comment anyway. A Lloyd's spokesman said he was unaware of any FBI involvement but that Lloyd's was co-operating fully with the SEC enquiries.

Some aggrieved American names have been lobbying in Washington. A spokeswoman for the Senate permanent investigations sub-committee said the committee was following a number of insurance related issues and was aware of the publicity surrounding Lloyd's American membership. She said this did not necessarily mean it would be launching an investigation of Lloyd's.

Many hundreds of the 2,500

Lloyd's names in America have suffered losses as a result of their participation at Lloyd's during the 1988 and 1989 years. About 50 are believed to be on the brink of launching a legal action against Lloyd's in the New York courts.

American organisers of the Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM), which lobbies for outside names' interests at Lloyd's, has advised names against joining the action. In a letter to northern Californian ALM members, Ralph Bunje, a regional co-ordinator of ALM, described the proposed action as "more counter-productive than productive".

He also said that participants could expose themselves to open-ended legal costs. Potential litigants are being asked to put up 5 per cent of the value of their secured bank letters of credit as a retainer fee and will pay a 10 per cent contingency fee of any recoveries or savings in the event of a successful action, which would include the retainer.

Proskauer, Rose, Goetz and Mendelson, a New York law firm that is bringing the action on behalf of the names, is said to have asked for \$25,000 a head in advance and a minimum of \$500,000 before it would agree to launch the action.



In the chair: Sir Patrick Neill, who is heading Lloyd's review into Feltrim losses

## Smurfit wants bid for Brent by Lonrho

By MATTHEW BOND

JEFFERSON Smurfit, the Irish paper and packaging group that owns £15 million of Brent Walker convertible bonds, said yesterday that it would like to see Lonrho, the international trading group, mount a full takeover bid for Brent Walker.

Dermot Smurfit, joint deputy chairman, said: "The best solution would be for Lonrho to make a bid." Lonrho met representatives of Brent Walker's shareholders this week.

In addition to Jefferson Smurfit's £15 million holding, Michael Smurfit, the company's chairman, has a £10 million personal investment in the bonds.

Any bid from Lonrho, however, is still apparently conditional on approval from Brent Walker's banks, and, as such, looks unlikely.

Even if Brent Walker's £1.4 billion debt is refinanced in another way, Jefferson Smurfit's bondholding could still be worthless. The company's interim results for the six months to end-July contain no provision for any Brent Walker loss.

Dermot Smurfit acknowledged that the Brent Walker investment had been a mistake. He said: "The fact of life is that we got it wrong."

Jefferson Smurfit's pre-tax profits of £175.2 million (£69 million), were 8.7 per cent down on the first half of last year, despite a 26 per cent increase in sales to £1.611 million. The interim dividend rises to 1r2.202p (1r1.573p).

Tempus, page 26

## Brittan succeeds in fight to block aircraft merger

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, the EC's competition commissioner, has blocked the bid by ATR, the Franco-Italian aircraft manufacturer, for De Havilland of Canada.

Sources said Sir Leon eventually won a comfortable majority of the 17 commissioners' votes, but earlier in the day, the negotiations rested on a knife edge.

The commission has now blocked a merger for the first time since Sir Leon's anti-trust division received wider powers of review last year. The case shows that he can push through measures unpopular with his colleagues, and furthers the case for expanding his hard-pressed team of investigators.

ATR's acquisition would have given a European aircraft

maker virtual dominance of the American market. Sir Leon said: "I think the signal we have sent is altogether positive."

The news prompted relief from British Aerospace and Fokker of The Netherlands, ATR's main competitors in the market for commuter turbo-prop aircraft. A Fokker spokesman said: "It finally means business as usual on a fair playing field."

The significance for BAE, haunted by the prospect of a failed rights issue and with plummeting profits, is even greater. Sir Leon could have inadvertently granted a stay of execution on BAE's ATP turbo-prop plant at Chadderton, just outside Oldham, where the ATR-De Havilland merger would have put 3,000

jobs on the line.

According to commission figures, the merger would have given ATR and De Havilland 50 per cent of the world market and 67 per cent of the European Community market for commuter turbo-prop aircraft between 20 and 70 seats. In the 40-70 seat segment, the shares would have been even greater.

Under the commission's merger powers, any new partnership with total global sales of Ecu5 billion (£3.5 billion), and whose constituent companies would each have Ecu250 million of sales in the EC, have to be referred to Brussels. Specialists in EC law said there was little chance ATR would try and restructure its bid, or appeal to the Court of Justice.

## Optimism at Bank of Scotland

By NEIL BENNETT

BANK of Scotland has signalled that the worst of the recession may be over after it announced half-year profits higher than City forecasts, and showed a fall in the rate of bad debt provisions.

The bank made pre-tax profits of £75.7 million in the six months to end-August. This was 28 per cent lower than a year ago, but sharply higher than the second half of last year when provisions cut the profit to £28 million.

Bad debt provisions reached £121 million. Once again, these compared with only £68 million last time, but were £13 million lower than the second half. The bank is increasing its half-year dividend by 7 per cent to 1.7p.

Tempus, page 26

## Judge clashes with defendant

## Guinness 'agreed to back Maxwell bid'

By OUR CITY STAFF

GUINNESS secretly agreed to back a takeover bid by a company controlled by Robert Maxwell, the publisher, the Guinness trial jury heard yesterday.

The drinks group's move, in June 1986, came after an assurance that its losses would be covered, Olivier Roux, the company's former finance director, told Southwark Crown Court.

After an intervention by Mr Justice Henry, the court also heard that Mr Maxwell's stockbroker at the time was Anthony Parnes, a defendant in the first Guinness trial last year. That led to a clash between the judge and Roger Seelig, the former merchant banker who is conducting his own defence. He allegedly took part in an illegal share support operation to help Guinness win its takeover battle for Distillers in 1986.

Mr Seelig, who worked for Morgan Grenfell, principal advisers to Guinness

as it fought for control of Distillers, protested that he was being "gratuitously" linked with people involved in the earlier case.

The former corporate finance director at Morgan Grenfell, denies two charges of false accounting under the 1968 Theft Act and one under the 1958 Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act.

Lord Spens, 49, former managing director of Henry Ansbacher and Company, also denies a charge of false accounting. Both men have also denied a joint charge alleging conspiracy to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act.

Mr Roux, the prosecution witness, agreed he had been approached by a Morgan Grenfell director when Mr Maxwell's company sought to bid for Philip Hill Investment Trust.

The merchant bankers asked Guinness if they would assist them and the Maxwell company with the cash under-

writing of the proposed offer, said Mr Roux. He agreed with Mr Seelig that Guinness was offered an indemnity against loss up to £10 million. In the event, Guinness's support was no more than £2 million. Mr Roux said neither Morgan Grenfell nor its lawyers suggested disclosure of the indemnity. He also checked with Ernest Saunders, Guinness chief executive. Mr Seelig then asked: "You also took advice from a stockbroker, who was Mr Maxwell's stockbroker at the time."

The judge then intervened and asked Mr Roux who the broker was. He replied it was Anthony Parnes. Mr Seelig said: "Is this really necessary, my lord?" The judge replied: "I am only clarifying the evidence." But Mr Seelig protested that such information "just continues the smear of the prosecution... I am so sensitive to be gratuitously linked with these people in the first trial, my lord."

The case continues

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND

## Bank of Scotland 1991 Interim Results

	6 months ended 31 August 1991 (unaudited)	6 months ended 31 August 1990 (unaudited)	6 months ended 31 January 1991
OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE PROVISIONS	£200.8m	£178.0m	£339.4m
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£75.7m	£105.5m	£134.1m
TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES	£2,001m	£1,595m	£1,707m
TOTAL ASSETS	£23,937m	£20,553m	£22,095m
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	3.60p	6.60p	7.56p
DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	1.70p	1.59p	4.06p

\* Adjusted for capitalisation and rights issues in June 1991

- Pre-tax profits of £75.7 million, asset growth of 8% in the half-year, dividend increase of 7% and a cost:income ratio of 52.6% represents a satisfactory performance in a difficult economic period.
- The Bank's Tier 1 and Total Capital ratios at 6.5% and 10.6% are a visible demonstration of financial solidity.

**BANK OF SCOTLAND**  
A FRIEND FOR LIFE

For a copy of the Bank's Interim Report please contact the Public Relations Department, PO Box No. 5, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH1 1YZ. Telephone 031 243 5453.

## Apple and IBM unveil joint deals

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

IBM and Apple Computer have announced a series of joint agreements for the development of new software and hardware technology which the companies, previously arch rivals, claim will revolutionise the personal computer industry.

The five agreements mark the formal start of close co-operation between Apple and IBM following their declaration of intent to make the move three months ago.

The deal will enhance Apple's chances of moving more successfully into the corporate market for personal computers and will increase the user-friendliness of IBM machines. It will eventually mean that companies using large IBM computers will be able to use Apple's advanced Macintosh computers as desktop workstations. The move is a serious challenge to Microsoft, which dominates the personal computer software market.

In July, IBM announced a

sharp fall in net earnings before tax, and though Apple's launch last year of low-cost Macintoshes has boosted its volume, profits overall have become tighter.

The five initiatives announced yesterday include:

□ New licensing to allow better networking between Apple and IBM computers.

□ Apple will adopt IBM's reduced instruction set computing (RISC) microprocessor chips for use in future Macintoshes. Supplied by Motorola, these are likely to be available in 2-3 years.

□ A joint system software venture aimed at developing a next-generation operating system for personal computers, fully available in the mid-Nineties.

□ A new joint company to create and license multimedia technologies.

□ An open-systems platform which will allow Macintosh and IBM to run applications from both companies on RISC-based hardware.

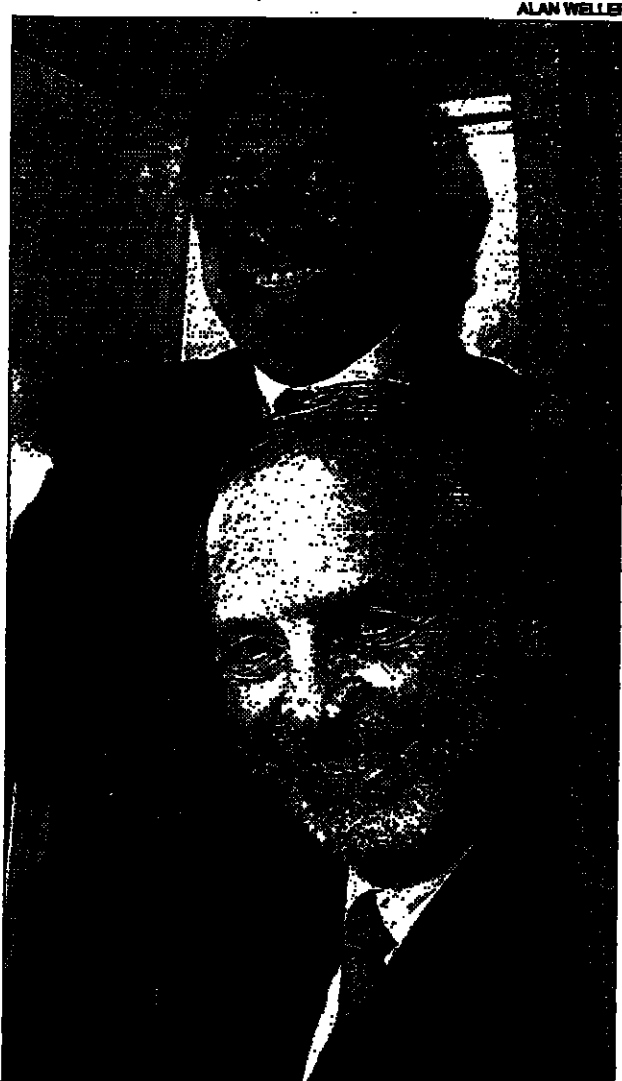
## Photo Me to offer travel in a flash

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE 15 million Britons who visit photo booths each year may soon be able to select the Paris or Manhattan skyline as a backdrop to their instant portraits rather than the traditional blue or orange curtain.

Photo Me International, which is the world's largest photo booth maker, expects to start market testing its booth of the future later this year. The new product will use "electronic imaging techniques" to enable users to select one of ten backgrounds. They will also be able to have themselves photographed apparently seated next to famous figures such as Mrs Thatcher.

The company operates booths in more than 100 countries and has more than 70 per cent of the UK market. Yesterday it reported a £200,000 rise in pre-tax profits to £17.1 million for the year to end-April. A 3p (2.8p) final dividend makes a total payout of 4.2p for the year, a 5 per cent increase. The company said that it intends to "maintain at least this level of dividend next year".



Snapping up the market: Dan David (front), president of Photo Me, and David Miller, managing director

## Deal talks at Time Warner confirmed

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

TIME Warner, the world's largest entertainment company, has confirmed that it is in talks with Toshiba and C. Itoh, the Japanese firms, which may invest \$1 billion in the debt-laden creator of Bugs Bunny and publisher of Time magazine.

All three sides stressed last night that a definitive deal was still some way off, although Steven Ross, the Time Warner chairman, has promised a big deal by the end of the year and other executives have said talks could be completed within weeks.

Sources close to the negotiations say Toshiba, the electronics group, and C. Itoh, the trading group, would take a stake in a newly created Time Warner offshoot, which would include its cable and pay per view television and film businesses.

Time Warner shares dropped sharply this year amid a controversial rights issue. The shares firmed a fraction above \$84 each by lunchtime on Wall Street yesterday, but have traded at \$125 this year.

## Shares in Reg Vardy rise on £12.9m issue

REG Vardy, the Northeast-based multi-franchise motor dealer, is raising £12.9 million through a placing and open offer of 11.3 million new shares at 120p. Shareholders will be offered one new share for every three held. Reg Vardy shares responded with a healthy 19p advance to 148p.

In August, Reg Vardy, which operates a total of 12 franchises in 19 locations, announced its appointment as Nissan dealers by the new Nissan (GB) distribution network.

Reg Vardy will use the proceeds from the issue for acquisitions, including additional Nissan dealerships, and to re-develop its Renault and Sunderland used car operations, without adding to its bank borrowings. Peter Vardy, the chairman, and his family interests will not take up their entitlement to new shares, but will be left with a 52.1 per cent interest in the group's enlarged share capital.

## Lamont falls to £3.92m

LAMONT Holdings, the Belfast textiles, computer and engineering group, is maintaining its interim dividend at 3.5p in spite of a 21 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £3.92 million in the six months to end-June. Turnover climbed from £52.4 million to £56.1 million while earnings per share slipped to 11.21p, down from 13.79p last time.

## Anglo rejects Scottish bid

ANGLO-Scandinavian Investment Trust has formally rejected last week's £18 million hostile bid from Scottish Cities Investment Trust. Anglo is also considering winding itself up to make a higher cash offer to shareholders. Scottish is offering cash worth 82 per cent of the trust's asset value, which is 102p a share, or 90 per cent of asset value in shares.

## Global demerger plan

GLOBAL Group, the USM-listed holding company, is planning to demerge its food interests as a separate quoted business. Global said that a demerger was in the best interests of shareholders as the food division needed to be "totally focused" to carry out its expansion plans.

The food division contributed £500,000 (£486,000) of operating profits during the six months to end-June. The shipping services division saw profits slide to £806,000 (£926,000), while the property division contributed zero profits (£1.5 million). Group pre-tax profits fell by 63 per cent to £959,000. The company said the profit for the year is likely to be below that for 1990. No property income is expected in 1991. There is a 0.2p interim dividend (nil).

## Advertising firms merge

TWO French advertising agencies have decided to merge, creating the largest advertising group in Europe and the sixth largest in the world. Eurocom and RSCG will merge into Euro RSCG with a turnover, on present calculations, of Fr43 billion. The companies said yesterday that they planned to make two-thirds of profits outside France.

## Melville cuts final payout

MELVILLE Group, the exhibition contractor, has cut its final dividend to 1.6p (3.6p), making a reduced total of 3.2p (5.2p) for the year to end-March. Pre-tax profits plunged to £3.13 million (£7.62 million) as turnover declined to £85.6 million (£112 million). Earnings per share slid to 4.81p (13.26p). Gearing, at 96 per cent, is likely to stay high this year.

## BNFL at odds with Scottish

By ROSS TIEMAN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH Nuclear's plans to store waste from atomic power stations on site have been attacked by British Nuclear Fuels, the state-owned nuclear fuel and waste processing business.

In its annual report, out yesterday, BNFL claims its "best information" - based on work in Sweden - is that the costs of storage and eventual direct disposal of irradiated fuel would be comparable with reprocessing.

Scottish Nuclear has refused to sign a reprocessing contract, worth hundreds of millions of pounds, with BNFL. The state-owned electricity generating company believes it can cut costs with dry storage of spent fuel.

In the year to end-March, BNFL declared a pre-tax profit of £156 million, up £11 million, on slightly reduced sales of £1.04 billion.

## Official reserves up \$10m

By ANATOLE KALEITSKY ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S reserves of gold and foreign currencies rose by an underlying \$10 million in September. Contributions of \$100 million by other countries to the cost of the Gulf war contributed to the rise, which was broadly in line with City expectations.

Some analysts said the figures pointed to minor intervention in the currency markets by the Bank of England to support sterling, but others disputed this. The overall level of official reserves dropped \$98 million to \$44.6 billion.

In America, sales of new, single-family homes rose by 6.7 per cent in August to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 540,000 units, well above Wall Street's expectations of about 455,000. August's sales level was the highest for more than a year.



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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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Annual value of international business £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Girobank**  
BUSINESS BANKING

## COMPANY BRIEFS

**PECO HOLDINGS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.73m (£1.95m)  
EPS: 4.14p (4.53p)  
Div: 1.2p (1.2p)

Turnover slipped to £8.71m (£9.2m). Ipeco has net cash of about £3.8m and prospects in both short and long-term are encouraging.

**BOSTROM (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £738,000  
EPS: 3.5p (10p)  
Div: 2.5p (2.6p)

Last time's profit was £1.73m. Earnings figure shows notional tax charge. Actual tax charge gives earnings of 4.9p (13p).

**EW FACT (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £570,000  
EPS: 5.15p (5.05p)  
Div: 1.21p (1.1p)

Last time's profit was £434,000. Turnover grew to £2.43m (£2.32m). Extraordinary charges of £135,000.

**REA HOLDINGS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £225,000  
EPS: 0.5p (2.6p)  
Div: Nil

Last time's profit was £408,000. The board intends to recommend a single dividend, of not less than 4p per share, for 1991.

**TOYE & CO (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £373,000  
EPS: 10.6p (10.5p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

Last time's profit was £371,000. Sales £8.77m (£8.3m). Budgeted sales and anticipated profits may not be fully achieved for year.

## FTSE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey Nat 2,429	Chubb 1,543	Lloyds 1,421	Royal Bank 4,384
ABN-Lyons 1,228	CJ 629	Lucas 1,778	Sainsbury 1,355
Anglia 1,533	Courtauld 608	M&S 1,278	Scott & N 1,455
ASDA 7,552	Enamper 870	Marshall Cn 711	Scott Power 5,688
AB Foods 387	Eurotunnel 681	Midland 1,213	Sears 3,785
Argill 2,828	Fisons 2,847	Natl Power 3,900	Savern Trst 2,943
Br Gas 2,440	Form 2,846	Natl West 3,879	Shell 1,369
BAA 509	Gen Acc 1,185	N W Water 1,326	Smith & N 1,281
BET 848	GEO 5,888	Nth Foods 476	SK Steel 2,188
BTR 1,783	Grand Met 2,288	PLD 2,205	Sun Alliance 2,233
BAT 2,565	GUS A 444	Rank 389	Thorn Ecl 2,283
Bendys 707	GFE 2,068	Robinson 183	Tennant 338
BICC 480	Guinness 226	Shaw 222	Telecom 2,287
Sk Scotland 1,729	Hawker 210	PowerGen 2,480	Tesco 2,288
Site Circle 404	Heathrow 210	Rank 188	Thames Wt 2,283
BCC 383	Hitachi 401	RAC 382	Thames Wt 2,283
Boots 2,159	Imperial 771	Reck 382	Thames Wt 2,283
Br Aero 3,322	Kingfisher 1,704	Reck 382	Thames Wt 2,283
Br Airways 1,835	Landis 1,325	Reck 382	Thames Wt 2,283
Br Gas 7,258	Ladbrokes 980	RMC Gp 157	Thames Wt 2,283
Br Petrol 5,036	Lend Lease 1,414	Rothmans 548	Watts Co 1,281
Br Steel 2,583	Lloyds 2,543	Rothmans 548	Watts Co 1,281
Br Telecom 24,512	Lloyds 2,543	Rothmans 548	Watts Co 1,281
CAW 2,613	Lloyds 2,543	Rothmans 548	Watts Co 1,281



## Edgy days for Aerospace

COMMENT

The vultures are not yet circling British Aerospace, the wounded giant of British manufacturing excellence. The flutter of wings detected in the City over the past couple of days is, however, a reminder that plenty of would-be bone-pickers are poised to take off on a reconnaissance flight should the opportunity arise.

After a brief recovery on the change of chairman last week, BAe shares had relapsed to 410p, uncomfortably close to the rights issue price of 380p, until lifted by a little bout of speculation yesterday. Kleinwort Benson has provisionally sub-underwritten the issue, but institutions are naturally anxious not to be left with it, assuming the unenthusiastic capital raising is duly authorised at the group's extraordinary meeting on Monday.

The vultures would surely scent blood if the issue flopped, leaving BAe with plenty of short-term cash and a group of involuntary shareholders. Sir Graham Day, the interim chairman, and Dick Evans, his chief executive, will be in evangelical mood on Monday to

make sure that does not happen by expounding the group's strategy and stressing the cost savings from the cash-eating restructuring programme. Some pieces of the future jigsaw will, however, be missing. The new permanent executive chairman BAe needs to recruit to bolster management is still only a white space in the organisation chart. Some of the names mentioned would certainly not be an improvement on Sir Graham, who has ruled himself out.

BAe also looks undercapitalised in the long-term to fulfil its present strategy, even with the £430 million rights issue money, which is mainly needed to finance restructuring. As a defence contractor with bits added on, it has been able to operate on negative working capital thanks to advance payments.

BAe built up debt to help its necessary expansion into non-defence industries, but these will

require a bigger capital base to develop even in joint ventures like the strengthened car deal between Rover and Honda. For a group facing such changes, gearing of only a third looks excessive as a starting point by the standards of GEC or the big German groups.

No wonder the men with the gold pens are working out a possible break-up on the backs of envelopes. Break-up is, however, not what BAe needs. Joint ventures may be sensible and a solution is required to the regional airliner problem. But BAe's structure makes sense and it would be folly to sell the pieces from a position of weakness.

A full bid from a hostile source would, in any case, send shock waves through the defence and financial establishment. Merger with GEC would be similarly

anathema. The defence ministry would only contemplate a foreign merger which would leave competition undiminished but cause political ructions. BAe should be developed rather than destroyed, but that will need more capital and more management.

### House rules

Discount houses are a constant source of amazement to investors, other City houses and their patrons at the Bank of England. They are repositories of skill yet are perennially getting into trouble. Traditionally, these are times when the City's discount houses should be making a mint. As interest rates fall, discount houses, which borrow from the

Bank of England and lend to the commercial banks, are supposed to make an instant turn on their loans without skill or effort.

Sadly, reports from the money markets suggest this is not happening. The market is anticipating every interest rate cut so skilfully, that pickings for the houses have become slim.

In addition, the discount houses look decidedly small against their competition in the international capital markets, the world's largest commercial banks. Each day they have to pit their skill against the banks' financial might.

All of which suggests that the future of the discount business may be limited. The discount houses themselves have realised this in the last few years and have used their resources to diversify into new areas, with varying success. Some moves, like Cater Allen's expansion into the Lloyd's insurance market, have paid off. Others like Union

Discount's acquisition of Sabre Leasing, have proved to be unmitigated disasters.

According to business school theory, companies in mature industries should take two actions. One is to diversify, which most of the houses have done. The other is to consolidate or merge, to reduce costs and combine capital resources to speed up the diversification.

Some smaller houses are under pressure to be recapitalised or closed. There have also been suggestions in the City, strenuously denied, that two of the City's largest discount houses have held preliminary talks about a merger.

A merger between leading players in the sector would make eminent sense. The resulting firm would have a dominant position in the market and could reduce costs. The biggest potential barrier is the Bank of England, which would have to approve any deal. But the Bank's reservations could be overcome if it saw a stronger player emerging and the two discount houses chose a suitable chief executive to lead the new outfit.

## Japanese greet financial firms' 'born again' claims with derision

After a year of business scandals, efforts are being made to clean up tarnished images, Joanna Pitman reports from Tokyo

WHEN full page announcements appeared in Japan's national daily newspapers this week, advertising the spruced-up business philosophy of the "Born Again Nomura Securities", it was met with snorts of derision from a jaded public. The Japanese are already satiated with more than a year's worth of virtually meaningless apologies for misdemeanours from the figureheads of the nation's most powerful financial institutions.

Yesterday's notice is a sure sign that the supply of fresh securities and banking scandals is drying up though little is being done to prevent them happening again.

The leading banks and securities firms at the centre of the summer's almost US\$6 billion worth of scandals, want to show the public they have cleaned up their act, punished offenders, instilled new ethics in their workers and now have a clean bill of health.

The Japanese believe they have heard all this before. In the past year, they have witnessed an astonishing succession of senior banking and securities executives' denials of misconduct, followed by admissions, pleas for forgiveness and tearful resignations intended to plug the leak of sordid affairs once and for all.

Rotten revelations began to seep out last October when Ichiro Isoda resigned as chairman of Sumitomo Bank, ostensibly to take responsibility for the alleged criminal acts of a branch manager, but as it later turned out, to avoid responsibility for the bank's support of a shady speculative property company that reportedly worked in league with Japan's gangster underworld. In February, Mr Isoda, who had been reinstated as a director, resigned again, with two other directors, to "lift company morale" and tell the world amends had been made.

There followed the now celebrated investment loss



SEC-type watchdog would 'not fit well': Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister

compensation scandal, in which more than 20 securities houses illicitly paid compensation worth over US\$1.3 billion to 274 clients to reimburse losses or guarantee profits made from stock and bond market investments. As this unfolded, it emerged that Nomura Securities and Nikko Securities had been dealing with well known gangster bosses, and Nomura was also accused of ramping share prices on behalf of one of its gangster clients.

News of dirty securities dealings had barely settled before more bank scandals began to hit the headlines. On July 25, Fuji Bank, Japan's fourth largest, admitted that three Tokyo branches had run a scam involving the issuance of forged deposit certificates to be used as collateral. Claiming it knew nothing of the forgeries, the bank insisted this was an isolated incident involving individual employees, thereby exposing either incredibly sloppy management or a remarkable economy with the truth.

Japan then learnt that not

only had finance minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's secretary been instrumental in helping Fuji Bank in its illegal scheme, but that two other leading banks, Tokai and Kyowa Saitama, had been doing the same. Then, Industrial Bank of Japan, the nation's most august financial

'In other financial centres, such misdemeanours would probably be dealt with by open legal procedure'

institution, admitted it had been lending billions of yen to the female mystic and operator of a mahjong parlour, suspected of being a powerful gangster's moll. The scale of Japan's most recent assorted financial shenanigans leaves the BCCI scandal in the shade. Minor revelations continue to trickle out, but the bulk of the fireworks now appears to be

tradition, with a few ritual resignations and token penalties.

There has been scarce evidence of a desire to revise the archaic nod-and-wink business philosophy. As Mr Hashimoto has said, an independent SEC-type industry watchdog would "not fit well" with the Japanese market.

In the past year, ten figureheads of well known financial institutions have resigned in grand Kabuki drama fashion; two of them twice. All have been seamlessly replaced. Meanwhile, 11 junior employees of banking institutions have been arrested and hauled away as scapegoats.

Embarrassed senior financiers have been publicly slapping their own wrists. Some gave up their summer bonuses, others took a 10 per cent pay cut for three months. The Big Four brokers, Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi, were asked to refrain from soliciting business for four days and fined a paltry ¥5 million (£21,000 each).

Much fanfare has accompanied the government's decision to exclude the Big Four from underwriting publicly offered prefectural and municipal bonds during October. The business will go to second tier brokers, however, many of which are, in fact, controlled by the Big Four.

Financial institutions have been advised to refrain from doing business with "anti-social organisations" (gangs), but to do so is still perfectly legal. Brokers have also been asked not to manipulate share prices, although the practice is widely acknowledged and has long been tolerated by the MoF. Mr Hashimoto effectively sanctioned future share ramping this week when he told the Diet that Nomura's alleged stock manipulation would be too hard to prove.

The only legislative development has been to make the payment of stock loss compensation illegal. The securities industry is delighted to have had this expensive burden removed for good.

The past year's array of scandals has revealed one indisputable truth about business ethics in Japan: they do not exist. But as long as the MoF continues to rule with a deliberately ambiguous hand, it will get the bankers and brokers it deserves.

## APB wants reports to say who does what Auditors attempt to close the public expectations gap

ACCOUNTANTS are so worried about the public's respect for company auditors that they are planning to spell out in the annual report contained in every company's accounts that the auditor's imprimatur means very little. In its first proposals for change to the audit report, the Auditing Practices Board suggests reports be expanded to tell the public who does what.

They should, says the APB, state clearly that directors are responsible for preparing accounts, choosing accounting policies, making judgments on matters like the state of contracts and stocks. They also have the prime duty to detect and prevent fraud.

Auditors just report on the adequacy of accounts and disclosure after making sample checks of trading, estimates and policies.

The message might be summarised as "don't blame us if things go wrong". This is not the most inspiring start from the APB, whose main function is to monitor and strengthen auditing standards.

The APB, like the profession in general, is worried over what has come to be called "the expectations gap". This arose, from the auditors' point of view, when they found themselves blamed for companies going bust. Why did auditors give no indication that a company was in trouble, why did they miss huge provisions that sub-

sequently had to be made, or frauds discovered years later? Auditors feared they were being set up as scapegoats for the effects of the recession.

Closing the expectations gap is a high priority. There are two ways of doing it: persuading the public not to expect too much of auditors, or enhancing their role.

The APB's first proposal is geared heavily to the former and seeks to dispel a number

of myths: that the balance sheet is intended to provide a fair valuation; that figures in accounts are precisely accurate; that audited accounts imply some guarantee that the business will not go bust; that auditors are responsible for the figures or vet them all. Well yes, though some of these myths are held by many company directors as well as the wider public. But the APB goes further. "Common misapprehensions include viewing an unqualified auditors' report as providing assurance that no frauds or other irregularities have occurred," its

consultation paper says. "A second example is assuming that auditors provide absolute assurance that the figures in the financial statements are correct."

Not much is left. Those who have had their expectations properly reduced to near zero might have some awkward thoughts. If the auditors' report tells so little, perhaps the system needs shaking up to provide what is needed.

The APB is working on this other end of the expectations gap. Further papers will discuss how auditors might draw attention to crucial points in the accounts that might affect the judgment of creditors or investors. How should they respond to accounts that do not give a true and fair view or comply with standards now enforced through machinery set up by the Financial Reporting Council?

The future lies in auditors of public companies having more responsibilities and being better paid to give a better service. Some leading accounting firms are now thinking in this direction. But some of the biggest too often see auditing as a loss leader to obtain more lucrative advisory work. Relationships between auditors and management need to change. Reducing expectations too far will stifle reforms that should enhance the auditor's role.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
Financial Editor

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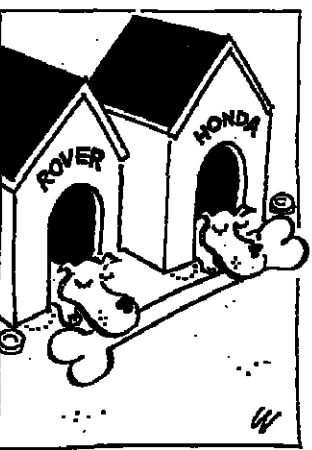
STAFF at Kidder Peabody have been light-heartedly accusing their next door neighbour, fellow Wall Street firm Merrill Lynch, of sexual discrimination. Kidder's employees, who only moved into their brand new offices in Finsbury Dials, Finsbury Street, two weeks ago, were panic-stricken on Tuesday when a burst water pipe put all toilet facilities in the building - leased from Norwich Union - out of action. Taking pity on their neighbours, or some of them, Merrill promptly invited all the female Kidder staff to use its lavatories instead. But hard-nosed Merrill took no such pity on the male members of staff who consequently spent the day beating a trail to the St Paul's Tavern in nearby Chiswell Street. "We'd rather you didn't write anything since we are trying to establish a working relationship with our landlord," says an embarrassed Kidder spokesman.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Making history

NICHOLA Pease, managing director of Smith New Court Europe, has made history by being the first woman to be appointed to the company's main board. Pease, aged 30, is also the youngest member of its board, which, after yesterday's promotion of seven individuals, now contains no less than 33 members. The six other new directors are Angus Baxter, joint MD of SNC Hong Kong, Cheek Kian Low, MD of SNC Singapore, Brian Mackley, head of UK sales trading, Adrian Pinks, senior market trader on leaders, Kenneth Taylor, head of UK sales and Mike Unsworth, head of UK research. Pease, who began her City career as a fund manager with Kleinwort Benson, and is described by

her colleagues as "experienced, intelligent and attractive", is now firmly committed to the Square Mile. So much so that in April she married City slicker, Crispin Odey, a merchant banker.



COMMUTERS arriving for work in the Square Mile have noticed curious goings on at the Leadenhall Street offices of BCCI. Every day for the past six weeks, the bank has, it seems, taken delivery of a load of photocopying paper and a sumptuous array of sandwiches and other refreshments. What could this mean?

### No fun run

CHARITABLE events grow ever more hazardous. Among the 900 competitors in last week's Capital City Cup Challenge race at Battersea Park, London, was a large contingent from Nabarro Nathanson, the City solicitor. One of them, Philip Lambert, was pounding the track when he suffered an allergic reaction and his eye suddenly doubled in size. He spent the rest of the

evening trying to find a casualty department, while the runners who finished the race found the gates locked and had to climb the fence.

### Dying art

THERE is an intense game of pass the parcel going at Singer & Friedlander - or pass the painting to be more precise. The merchant bank has just acquired a work by Guy Noble, the winner of its annual watercolour competition. Titled 'The Suicide', it depicts a well-dressed City type hurrying himself from a building on the Embankment - a gruesome reminder of what can happen when markets turn the wrong way. "The trouble is nobody wants the painting in their office," laments Tony Solomons, the chairman, and a keen water colour enthusiast. He is adamant that the bank will find a home for it - but probably well away from its more sensitive clients and employees.

CAROL LEONARD



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423	255	Ballwin/Enviro	292	493	+5	24.0	9.4	9.8
424	256	North West	305	395	+8	24.0	8.2	8.2
425	257	South West	305	395	+8	24.0	8.2	8.2
426	258	North West	343	343	0	20.0	8.6	8.6
427	259	North West	343	343	0	20.0	8.6	8.6
428	260	North West	343	343	0	20.0	8.6	8.6
429	261	Thompson Water	387	387	+6	23.0	9.0	9.0
430	262	North West	385	390	+12	26.8	8.7	8.7
431	263	Western Water	418	422	+3	23.8	8.8	8.1
432	264	Variables Water	418	422	+5	23.8	8.8	8.1

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# Energy secret that Britain gave away

More than 150 years after Sir William Grove, a Welsh judge, demonstrated the principles of fuel cells, the British government is poised to back a serious test of the technology.

Fuel cells are the catalyst in a reaction between oxygen and hydrogen to generate electricity whose main waste is water.

They can be built small enough to power cars, office blocks, factories and homes or they can be clumped together into power station-sized units for lighting towns and cities.

Fanciful claims have been made for fuel cells in the past, as with superconductivity and cold fusion. These have always foundered on the grounds of cost and inefficiency leading to an official government line that the technology remains futuristic.

In collaboration with industry, however, the energy department and the trade and industry department have been quietly reviewing its potential.

Sites, such as hospitals, are being scrutinised for a demonstration scheme that might help to reverse the fortunes of Britain's fledgling fuel cell industry. The decision, however, needs to be taken with some urgency.

Several countries have already established pilot schemes for a technology that could provide environment-friendly energy into the 21st century and at the same time be highly lucrative for the nations involved. An 11-megawatt

**The government may test fuel cells 150 years after a Welshman discovered that they could meet energy demands. But our competitors are already way ahead, Nick Nuttall writes**

demonstration plant, which could generate enough power for about 10,000 homes, has been started by Tokyo Electric Power in Japan, and four German companies, BMW, Siemens, Linde and MBB, the Daimler-Benz company, are pumping £25 million into a scheme near Neuenburg this year. A one-megawatt plant is being built in Milan, northern Italy, which should come into use by the end of 1992, while The Netherlands has a small project at Delft University. The American energy department is spending nearly £30 million annually.

Such is the growing worldwide demand for fuel cells that some experts fear Britain's pilot plans may become difficult to execute.

Britain has no manufacturing base in phosphoric acid fuel cells, the only technology that appears ready for commercialisation, and

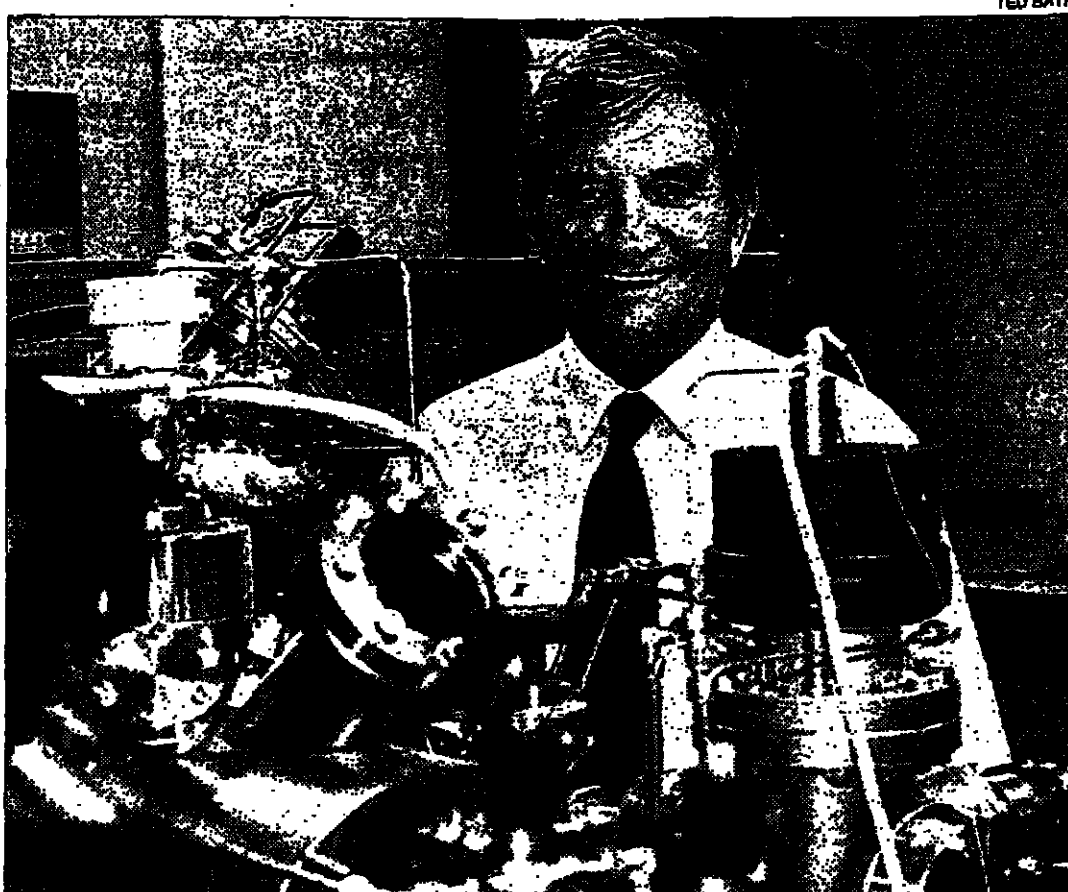
cell production from three manufacturing lines set up in Japan and the United States is over-subscribed for the foreseeable future. "We suggested to the government in 1982 that it should find out what fuel cells are all about, but this was rejected on the grounds that they were not cost-effective," says Dr Gary Acres, the director of technology and planning at the Johnson Matthey Technology Centre at Sonning Common, Berkshire.

Japan's government, in contrast, has offered 30 per cent grants for schemes in an attempt to realise them commercially.

The resurgence overseas appears to be driven by a recognition that, given incentives, fuel cells could be important in meeting global energy demands without polluting the planet.

The battery-like devices have no moving parts and emissions are so low that fuel cell power stations can be sited in populated areas. An independent study by the American consultancy Arthur D. Little, for example, shows that fuel cells emit only five parts per million of nitrogen oxides against 2,370 ppm for a basic internal combustion engine. Fuel cells are also flexible. The oxygen part of the fuel comes from the air and the hydrogen can come from several sources, including naphtha, methane, biomass and methanol.

Efficiencies for the phosphoric acid systems are around 80 per



Man and machine: Dr Gary Acres with an electron spectrometer used to develop fuel cells

cent, of which 40 per cent is electric and 40 per cent thermal, says Dr Marino Woo, of Fuji Electric, Japan. These systems can be used for home or district heating schemes. Such efficiencies mean that emissions of carbon dioxide, the global warming gas, are also significantly reduced, says Dr Acres, whose company is involved in developing the platinum electrodes and electro-chemistry underpinning the cells.

The ability to site the stations near or in areas of high energy use cuts electricity distribution costs and transmission losses, says Mar-

cus Norden, the head of the World Fuel Council, an industry-led initiative launched at the Royal Institution in London last week with the goal of seeing fuel cells commercialised by 1995. Convenient siting also reduces the amount of cabling which, in the US, is particularly attractive, in view of alleged links between electromagnetic radiation from power lines and ill health.

The problem is that the cost of fuel cells is still several times more than conventional power stations. However, the price is expected to come down as the cells are mass-

produced and as countries introduce strict emission regulations. Dr Acres believes that despite Britain's slowness the future is far from bleak if a vigorous effort is launched.

Although phosphoric acid cells will be the first to be commercialised, Britain has manufacturing expertise in other types of fuel cells. These include solid polymer and solid oxide cells, which are being developed by companies such as VSEL, formerly Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering, in collaboration with Ballard, the Canadian company.

## Bone up on vitamins

VITAMINS taken in winter may reverse some of the bone loss suffered by older women, that can lead to fractures, a study published this week in *Annals of Internal Medicine* reports. In northern climates bone density declines during the winter, possibly because of reduced sunlight. The new study, at the nutrition centre at Tufts University, Massachusetts, shows the bone loss is less in women taking vitamin D supplements, and is made up during the summer.

## Long lost orchid

BOTANISTS in New Zealand who spent years searching for an orchid thought to be extinct paused for lunch and sat right on top of it, the *New Zealand Herald* reports. The orchid, *Corybas carsei*, was unharmed and 14 more were found nearby. The plants flower for only two days a year.

## Super-chip

TOSHIBA will sell from next April the world's first 4-megabit EEPROM, a memory chip that retains data even after power is shut off. The chips, costing £30, can replace floppy or hard discs in computers. Because of the complex memory cell structure of EEPROMs, the largest chips now available hold only one megabit, or about a million binary units of information.

## Exercise is best

AN AMERICAN study of almost 90,000 women has found exercise is the best way to prevent diabetes, even more effective than weight loss. Researchers said they found that women who exercised vigorously at least once a week were two-thirds less likely to develop a version of the disease known as non-insulin-dependent diabetes.

## Faded star

ASTRONOMERS at Cambridge have found one of the dimmest stars ever seen, 10,000 times dimmer than the Sun. The star, known by its catalogue name BR1021-0214, is comparatively close but is so dim that it is visible only with large telescopes.



British Telecom's Prestel, the public service that offers computerised information over the telephone line, will lose 12,000 of its 90,000 subscribers and almost all those who use the system at home, following BT's decision to close the Micronet section of the database.

In contrast, the similar Minitel system in France, which has more than five million users, is a commercial success. The American service, Prodigy, has more than a million users.

BT's Micronet section was aimed at computer enthusiasts, who were considered to be a prime market to use Micronet at home. BT thought they would be in possession of the necessary connecting equipment and in-

# Hey Prestel! A disappearing act

British Telecom's decision to withdraw its database for home computer users contrasts with the success of the French equivalent

interested in the technology. But BT has now announced that the service will be closed from the end of this month because it is uneconomic, needing either 25,000 subscribers or higher fees.

Prestel was launched ten years ago with the intention of being a mass market medium to be used in millions of homes, something that the French system has achieved. High prices have kept away suf-

ficient subscribers to bring the prices down and thereby attract more custom. Two years ago, 20,000 people were using Micronet. But in April British Telecom raised Micronet subscription charges by 50 per cent to £138 a year.

At peak times there is also a charge of more than £5 per hour for accessing Micronet. In BT parlance, peak time includes using

the system on Saturdays before 6pm. Computer enthusiasts have not lost the desire for electronic information but have moved to more comprehensive or cheaper services.

British Telecom's failure to provide even this committed group with an economic enough service means that Prestel is destined to become a service for businesses, limited to those such

as travel agents and other companies who can justify the high charges.

It removes for the foreseeable future the chance of Britain having a Minitel-type system. In France, millions of users can connect at home to services ranging from booking trains, hotel accommodation and electronic shopping to contacting lonely hearts clubs.

Minitel became a success after France Telecom provided cheap terminals as an electronic replacement for telephone directories.

MATTHEW MAY

## European Law Report Luxembourg

### Shareholding does not make company liable

**Polysar Investments Netherlands BV v Inspecteur der Invoerrechten en Accijzen te Arnhem** Case C-60/90

Before G. F. Mancini, President of the Sixth Chamber and Judges T. F. O'Giggins, C. V. Kakouris, F. A. Schockweiler, and P. J. G. Kapteyn Advocate General W. Van Gerven (Opinion April 24)

[Judgment June 20] The holding of shares in other undertakings did not constitute the exploitation of an asset with a view to producing a permanent source of income because any dividend which might arise out of those shares arose simply from ownership of the asset.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in answering questions submitted to it by the Gerechtshof (Court of Appeal), Arnhem.

Polysar BV was a part of the world Polysar group. It held shares in various foreign companies, received dividends each year and regularly paid dividends to Polysar Holding Ltd, established in Canada, which held 100 per cent of its capital.

Polysar BV carried out no commercial activities. For the period from January 11, 1981 to December 31, 1985 Polysar BV had paid a certain amount of value-added tax in respect of various services and for which it had obtained reimbursement.

The customs and excise inspector in Arnhem disputed Polysar's right to deduct VAT on the basis of the Sixth Directive and had issued a notice with a view to recovering the amount which had been deducted.

Having unsuccessfully lodged a complaint against the recovery notice, Polysar BV lodged an action before the Gerechtshof, Arnhem which decided to stay the proceedings and refer certain questions on the Sixth Directive No 77/388/EEC of the Council of May 17, 1977, on the harmonisation of legislation of the member states relating to turnover taxes - common system of value added tax: uniform basis of assessment (OJ L143 p1).

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities ruled as follows: The first question submitted by the Gerechtshof fell into two parts. On the one hand it sought, in essence, to establish whether a holding company which did not carry out any other activities than those which were connected with the holding of shares in various subsidiaries, might be considered to be a taxable person for VAT purposes pursuant to articles 4 and 17 of the Sixth Directive and, on the other hand, whether that status arose from the membership of the company in a worldwide group which appeared to the outside world under a single title.

With regard to the first part it was necessary to point out that article 17 of the Sixth Directive related to the creation and extension of a right to deduction from which, under certain conditions, a taxable person might benefit.

The term "taxable person" was used in that provision in the meaning conferred upon it by articles 2 and 4 of the same directive. Consequently it was necessary to interpret those articles.

It appeared from article 2 of the Sixth Directive, which defined the scope of application of VAT, that within a member state only activities of an economic nature were subject to that tax.

By article 4(1) anyone who carried out, in an independent manner, such economic activities as were considered to be a taxable person.

The concept of economic activities was defined by article 4(2) as including all activities as producer, trader or as provider of services and, in particular, transactions including the exploitation of a tangible or intangible asset with a view to realising income of a permanent nature.

According to article 4(4) of the Sixth Directive only legally independent persons who were closely linked between themselves on the financial and organisational basis were to be considered as taxable persons, where the link was established in the territory of one and the same member state.

On those grounds the European Court of Justice ruled: Article 4 of the Sixth Directive was to be interpreted as meaning that a holding company whose sole purpose was the holding of shares in other undertakings and which was not directly or indirectly involved in the management of those undertakings was not to be regarded as a taxable person for VAT purposes, and therefore did not have a right to deduction under article 17 of the Sixth Directive, subject to the rights which that holding company possessed in its capacity as shareholder or associate. The membership of the holding company of a world group, which appeared to the outside under a single designation, was not to be taken into consideration for establishing whether or not the company was a taxable person for VAT purposes.

At one stage the action had been dismissed as outside the time limit but the Court of Appeal had restored it (*The Times* November 28, 1990; [1991] WLR 428), expressing the view that on the extraordinary facts of the case the cogency of the evidence was unlikely to be significantly

**Halford v Brookes and Another** Before Mr Justice Roulger [Judgment September 30]

In considering a civil claim for damages for murder, the standard of proof should be the criminal one as no one should be declared guilty of murder unless the tribunal was sure that there was no other sensible conclusion.

Mr Justice Roulger so stated, giving a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division, in finding that the plaintiff, Mrs Gail Halford, suing as the administratrix of the estate of her daughter, Lynn Siddons, had made out a claim for the tort of battery to Lynn Siddons leading to pain, terror, death and consequent economic loss against the first defendant, Michael Brookes and the second defendant, Fitzroy Brookes.

Mr Anthony Scriver, QC and Mr Timothy Owen for the plaintiff; Mr Bernard Livesey, QC and Mr Simon King for the first defendant; Mr Adrian Whield, QC and Mr Edmund Cousins for the second defendant.

MR JUSTICE ROULGER said that on Monday April 3, 1978 Lynn Siddons, aged 16, was murdered in a brutal fashion while out for a walk on the bank of the Trent and Mersey canal south of Derby with the second defendant who was then aged 15. She was strangled and stabbed more than 40 times.

Now 13 years later, the plaintiff, Lynn's mother, had brought an action for damages against the first defendant, who was the second defendant's stepfather, and the second defendant, alleging one or both had been the murderers.

There were only two possible explanations for how Lynn met her death. The first was that it was the work of the second defendant alone; the second, that the strangling and serious knife wounds had been inflicted by the first defendant with the second defendant playing a secondary part at the command of his stepfather.

His Lordship had felt it right to give himself an accomplice warning. Although the second defendant's claim to have been acting under duress would mean that he was not an accomplice, the interests of the two defendants were so antagonistic the warning was necessary on that ground.

The burden of proof should be the criminal standard. No one, whether in a civil or criminal court, should be declared guilty of murder unless the tribunal was sure that there was no other sensible conclusion.

After consideration of all the evidence, his Lordship concluded that the second defendant's account was worthy of belief and was the true story of Lynn's death. If it had not been alone it would not have fulfilled the burden of proof. However, the cumulative effect of all the evidence was massive.

There was no reasonable doubt that the first defendant

## Excess sentence was unlawful

**Regina v Anderson** Before Lord Justice Farquharson, Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Owen [Judgment September 26]

When a 16 year old had been sentenced to three years detention in a young offenders institution, which was in excess of the maximum of 12 months laid down by section 1B(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, as inserted by section 123 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, the sentence was unlawful and, under section 1B(5)(b), the excess over 12 months was to be treated as remitted with the effect that no action was taken.

Accordingly, section 1B(5)(b) took effect and the sentence was remitted in so far as it exceeded 12 months.

The Home Office was regarding the sentence as if it had been one of three years passed under section 53, but that was not the order which had been made.

Under the provisions of section 11(3) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 an appellant could not be more severely treated on appeal than below.

In the present case, where the 28-day period had passed without action or review, the sentence under appeal was one of 12 months and the court could not increase that.

Any view of the Home Office that the sentence was three years was erroneous.

The court therefore declared that the sentence took effect as provided by statute and was one of 12 months.

It had been open to the

## Identifying cogent ground of appeal

**Regina v Day** Before Lord Justice Farquharson, Mr Justice Tucker and Mr Justice Owen [Judgment September 27]

Before granting a certificate for an appeal in criminal proceedings a trial judge had to be satisfied that there was a particular cogent ground of appeal and identify it in the certificate.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division so stated in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by David John Day against his conviction at Southampton Crown Court (Judge Wright and a jury) on four counts of inducing investment of money contrary to section 13(1)(a) of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958.

Mr Anthony Donne, QC and Mr Richard Lisack, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Anthony Hacking, QC and Mr Paul Grumbar for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE FARQUHARSON said that the appellant had complained that the jury had not been given the direction laid down in *R v Brown (Kevin)* ([1983] 1 WLR 1292) referred to in the certificate.

In any case where, as here, the basis of the appeal was an extensive criticism of the judge's handling of the trial it would be better for leave to be sought from the Court of Appeal in the usual way.

Solicitors: Deighton Guedalla; Buckle Mellow, Peterborough; Hunt & Coombs, Peterborough.

## Correction

Stephens & Scova, Exeter, have asked us to point out that in *Hamilton District Council v Buxted Poultry Ltd* (*The Times* August 8) that firm had conducted of the case.

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South Africa brought back into world tennis

# Britain paired with France in next season's Davis Cup

By ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

GIVEN some of the alternatives, the draw for the world group of the Davis Cup, which for the first time in 13 years included the name of South Africa, was not too unkind to Britain.

An away tie against France, top seeds and potential champions, gives Tony Pickard's team just the glimmer of a chance, which neither Germany nor the United States would have offered. Yet, realistically, few since General Custer would appreciate the imbalance of the odds against a British victory.

France beat Britain 5-0 last year on grass at Queen's Club, London, and, 12 months on, have progressed to the final against the United States in Lyons next month. Britain too have improved in their own way, winning both qualifying ties, against Poland and Austria, with the minimum of fuss.

Yet one statistic will suffice to illustrate the gap in class. There are nine Frenchmen in the top 100 in the world, while Jeremy Bates, at 183, is the only British player in the top 200.

France will also have the choice of surface. If they are feeling insecure, for some reason, they will want to play on clay indoors. It is just as well that Tony Pickard sets little store by statistics or odds.

"It will be a different year and we have a different team

**FIRST ROUND:** France v Great Britain; Netherlands v Switzerland; Brazil v Germany; Italy v Spain; Yugoslavia v Australia; Canada v Sweden; Czechoslovakia v Belgium; United States v Argentina; denotes seeds

and a different attitude. On paper, we had no chance against the Austrians and, on paper, we have no chance here either," he said. There were few willing to argue. "It would have been nice to have had a home draw, but it's just very exciting to be back in the top group and when the time comes we will be prepared and ready."

Pickard has yet to work out how and where he will prepare. If, as is likely, Stefan Edberg reaches the latter stages of the Australian Open, Pickard will not be back in Europe until four days before the tie, which begins on January 31. Much of his team's preparation will therefore have to be done in Australia. "Their players will have the same problem," he pointed out.

More surprising, even than Britain's return to the top, was the announcement that South Africa would be one of the 93 nations in the 1992 competition. Their re-entry is provisional on the acceptance of Tennis South Africa (TSA), the new administrative body, by the National Olympic Committee of South Africa, but the International Tennis

Federation (ITF) has already received assurances of support from the NOCSA.

The TSA will be an amalgamation of the black Tennis Federation of South Africa (TFSA) and the white South Africa Tennis Union, but a third group representing the coloured population, the Tennis Association of South Africa, have consistently held back from unification and have been given until October 28 by the ITF to join the TSA.

Even if they refuse, South Africa's participation in the Davis Cup should not be in danger. Less predictable, however, could be the reaction of the other nations in South Africa's zonal group - Algeria, Cameroon, Congo, Senegal and Tunisia - though all conditionally agreed, in Hamburg last summer, to readmit South Africa as soon as the International Olympic Commission had done so.

South Africa, who won the Davis Cup in 1974 after India had refused to play the final, will return at the bottom of the pile in a newly-formed Euro/African group. France, a far cry from their last stateside against the United States in 1978.

The group will be decided on a round-robin format in Tunisia at the end of April, with the top four teams being promoted to group two in 1993. It will not be until 1995, at the earliest, that South Africa can reach the world group again. With luck, Britain might be there to welcome them.



Walk in the Park: Marling (noseband) comfortably beats Absurd (left) in the Tattersalls Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

## Glorious double leads Wragg to riches

By RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

GEOFFREY Wragg scooped the money and the glory at Newmarket yesterday when he sent out the winner of the world's richest race for two-year-olds and saw Marling promoted to favourite for next year's 1,000 Guineas following victory in the Cheveley Park Stakes.

The finest 40 minutes of the silver-haired trainer's professional life began with Young Senor holding on from Dr Devious by a fast-diminishing margin to win the cash-laden Tattersalls Tiffany Highflyer Stakes.

The £500,000 bonus which accompanied the first prize would be enough to delight anyone, but if there is one commodity the training fraternity

rates higher than money it is the prospect of classic glory.

Wragg, who is enjoying his best season by far, did not have to wait long. Despite being off the racecourse since Royal Ascot and being about a stone above her proper racing weight, Marling looked the winner a long way out in the Cheveley Park Stakes. She won by a length-and-a-half from Absurd with Basma a head third.

Nine post-war winners of the group one contest have gone on to take the following year's 1,000 Guineas and Corals, William Hill and Victor Chandler promoted the daughter of Marwell to the top of their ante-post lists.

Ladbrokes were alone in offering a generous-looking 25-1 against classic glory with spokesman Mike Dillon reckon-

ing the filly will not stay the mile trip.

Marwell won the Cheveley Park Stakes in 1980 before finishing fourth in the 1,000 Guineas but Walter Swinburn who rode her and yesterday's winner commented: "Marwell was badly in season that day and would not have won over any trip."

Swinburn was struck immediately by the similarities between Marling and her mother when he first sat on her in the spring. "If anything this filly is more robust, a bit stronger. But the way they race and their attitude during a race is not 99.9 per cent similar, it is 100 per cent the same."

Marwell returned to sprinting after her defeat in the 1,000 Guineas and won the Prix de l'Abbaye. However, Wragg said:

"If Marling settles during the race I don't see why she shouldn't get a mile. She is not a speed animal as such."

Marling suffered from sore shins after winning the Queen Mary Stakes in June and then went down with the cough. "We were a bit scared we would not get her fit enough for this race so we started giving her two bits of work a week."

"Although I was confident she was fit in her wind, I was worried about her weight. She put on 50lb and we had managed to get only 25lb of that off. She just tried a little bit coming up the hill but her class took her through."

Blyton Lad, third in the Nunthorpe Stakes and Scarborough Stakes, gained reward for consistency when winning the Rous Stakes for the second year running.

The massive five-year-old arrived at William Pearce's Hambleton yard in April without a stalls certificate following a long history of trouble at the start. Through a process of trial and error Pearce found the secret to getting the gelding used to the stalls.

"He is a huge horse and was inclined to be claustrophobic. We tried taking him in backwards, we tried leading him in last, but he didn't like going between other horses and we tried putting him in blindfolded and even feeding him in the stalls."

"We then discovered he has to go in first while other horses are standing in front of the stalls rather than circling behind him. He has to be trotted in and flattened a hander at York who did not manage to get out of the way. But he has been no trouble since the King George Stakes at Goodwood."

Lord Of Tismore ended a long season by providing Darryl Holland with another winner in the Shadwell Stud Apprentice Series final. Barry Hills, whose horses are in fine form, said the four-year-old would stay in training next year.

Despite heavy rain in Newmarket at the weekend, the ground was fast with most race times below standard. Hills said he would prefer slightly more give for Troupee who has been backed heavily for the William Hill Cambridgeshire on Saturday. "I think he has a winning weight and we have had this race in mind for quite a long time. I would just like to see him be able to get his toe in the ground on a big day."

Rock Hopper, trained by Michael Stoute, was withdrawn from the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at yesterday's forfeit stage.

### CRICKET

## Toronto trip ruled too risky

By SIMON WILDE

THE England cricket committee has refused to allow Philip DeFreitas to play in an exhibition match in Toronto next month. DeFreitas is one of four England players - Ian Botham, Graeme Hick and Neil Fairbrother are the others - to have been invited to play for a Rest of the World team against a West Indies XI on November 2.

The England authorities fear that DeFreitas, as a fast bowler, runs the highest risk of injuring himself on the artificial playing area at Toronto's SkyDome.

Although the pitch is turf, the outfield will consist of matting and the points at which the surfaces meet are considered a potential threat to the safety of a fast bowler in his run-up.

After a demanding summer's cricket in which DeFreitas finished as England's leading

wicket-taker with 30 wickets in six Tests (average 19.06), Mickey Stewart, the England manager, would also prefer him to rest before the winter campaigns in New Zealand and the World Cup.

The Canadian Cricket Association has sent out invitations to Botham, Hick and Fairbrother and replies are expected within the week. The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) will not object if they take part.

If Botham plays, it will probably be for the last time before he joins up with the England tour party in New Zealand in late January. Between times, he is committed to a short speaking tour of South Africa later in November and to a pantomime season in England.

This is the third successive year that such a match is to be

staged in Toronto. The two previous fixtures attracted crowds of 10,000 and 12,000. This year organisers are hoping for a capacity attendance of 50,000.

It was partly because of the rise of these unauthorised matches that earlier this year the TCCB sent several of England's leading players on year-round contracts which bound them exclusively to the national team.

None of those invited to play in Canada are on such a contract but all are contracted members of the England winter tour party.

The Canadian exhibition match is the Rest of the World side will include three South Africans, Jimmy Cook, Allan Donald and one of the country's leading black players. The West Indies team is expected to be largely representative.

## Young Senor collects merit bonus

By MICHAEL SEELY

YOUNG Senor, the winner of yesterday's Tattersalls Tiffany Highflyer Stakes, collected £530,000 in prize-money and bonuses for the colt's owners, the executors of the late Eric Moller.

Robert Sangster also had a bumper pay day, earning £300,000 in bonuses. Dr Devious, the head runner-up, harvested £200,000 and sixth-placed Soiree took £100,000 as the first filly to finish.

In a thrilling race between Alnasr Alwasheek, Young Senor and Dr Devious, Walter Swinburn drove the Geoffrey Wragg-trained 14-1 winner to the front close home for his narrow victory. Alnasr Alwasheek finished a neck away third and a

short head in front of Ruhr.

Young Senor had been beaten four-and-a-half lengths by Assessor at Ascot only last Friday, but judged on his form with Dr Devious at the July meeting here Young Senor was entitled to turn the tables on 3lb better terms.

"He hated the soft ground at Ascot," said the trainer, "but I thought he had a marvelous chance at the price and backed him accordingly. He's in both the Dewhurst Stakes and the Racing Post Trophy."

William Hill offer both yesterday's winner and runner-up at 40-1 for next year's 2,000 Guineas. Concurring with this opinion, Geoffrey Gibbs, the senior Jockey Club handicapper, said: "This form will be

somewhere around 10lb behind that shown by Araxi and Rodrigo De Triano."

The total bonuses paid out yesterday amounted to £1.25 million, for which 29 of the 30 runners were eligible. Only My Memoirs was not qualified. But now the race, which was run in two sections in 1990, for colts and fillies, is to be discontinued.

"It's a great shame that it can't go on," said Sangster. "Races like this create tremendous interest and bring new owners into the game. Look what a great finish we had between three high-class horses."

The bonuses were funded by vendors of yearlings sold at the Highflyer Sales at Newmarket, who contributed to the scheme

by paying £2,500 apiece. Commenting, Michael Watt, the chairman of Tattersalls, said: "In today's economic climate, vendors feel they can't go on paying the £2,500."

"Also the Jockey Club have a rather negative attitude about restricted races so there is no chance of races like this being granted pattern race status, which is a great pity as today's result represented top-class form."

In the Solihull Stakes Willie Carson and Dick Hern stole the honours when the progressive Wessam stormed home a convincing two lengths winner from Let's Get Lost. This decisive win certainly paid a handsome tribute to his York conqueror, Great Palm.

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Safer boxing would lose appeal

From Dr Helen C. Grant

Sir, It is impossible to make boxing safer without emasculating it beyond recognition and making it boring. Boxing is show-business: it is exciting because the aim of the game is to render your opponent unconscious - and in the vast majority of cases the boxers recover from the immediate trauma to fight again.

The acute and tragic catastrophe of bleeding within the skull (caused by shearing of the brain draining veins as the brain moves about within the cranium) is fortunately very rare. The real menace of boxing is the much commoner, insidiously developing instability and dementia which result over the years from the insupportable scars which gradually replace normally functioning grey matter.

There is a space between the inner rough and jagged lining of the skull and the surface of the brain which is the grey matter. When the head is hit hard, the skull is impelled rapidly away, but the heavy and soft brain moves more slowly, so that the grey matter is bruised or even removed by the hard promincences within the skull.

Any ordinary boxing bout causes many such areas of destruction, each one the result of a heavy blow not necessarily causing unconsciousness. Adding a headguard (report, September 25), far from protecting the brain, is likely to aggravate the damage by increasing the momentum with which the head, slightly heavier now, travels when hit.

### Flouting the whip

From Mr A. Qvist

Sir, Why whip at all (Mr Barnett, September 20)? Since it is the case that the infliction of corporal punishment by one human being upon another, for whatever offence, is virtually banned, even in parent/child relationships, what is the justification for allowing it simply as an urge to greater effort by a horse in a "sporting" event?

Yours faithfully,  
ALFRED QVIST,  
Chestnut Cottage,  
Old Heathfield, East Sussex.

### Unravelling the haka

From Mr Peter Stanton

Sir, I have long wondered precisely what it is that the New Zealand All Blacks chant to such telling effect in the haka before the start of their rugby internationals. I had the good fortune recently to visit that country and was recommended a splendid guide, the *Mobil New Zealand Travel Guide to the North and South Islands*, by Diana and Jeremy Pope, which provides an explanation and translation.

It appears that a fearsome chief, Te Rauparaha, was being pursued by enemies and took refuge in a hole in the ground, while a local chief, who was particularly hairy, managed to create a sufficient diversion to distract them. As the enemies drew closer, Te Rauparaha murmured: "It is death", and as they moved away: "It is life!"

When he emerged, Te Rauparaha composed the haka, we have since so often heard but never understood:

Ka mate! Ka mate! [It is death! It is death!] Ka ora! Ka ora! [It is life! It is life!] Ka mate! Ka mate! Ka ora! Ka ora! Te nei te tangata pūhoro [This is the hairy person] Nana nei i tiki mai, Whakawhiti te ra! [Who caused the sun to shine] Aue! Aue! Aue! [One upward step! Another upward step] Aue upane, upane, [One last upward step, the step forth!] Whiti te ra! [Into the sun that shines!]

Just what this all has to do with winning rugby matches, however, remains a mystery.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER STANTON,  
Glastonbury,  
Castleson, SW13.

From Mr Nicholas Albery

Sir, While appreciating your balanced leader, Ring of death (September 23), I would have liked to see mention of a most reasonable safety measure: the forbidding of blows to the head, just as blows below the belt are banned.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS ALBERY,  
Chairman, The Institute  
for Social Inventions,  
20 Heber Road, NW2.

### Making allowance for injury

From Mr R. J. A. White

Sir, What an absurdity was acted out at the Ryder Cup on the final day (report, September 30). They believe the danger to a man to the first tee should forfeit the match. A cricket eleven which cannot bat a man because of injury receives no concessions: why must golf be so stupid?

So the United States team received a half for a match which was never played. Fiddlesticks - fiddle clubs more like it.

R. J. A. WHITE,  
Swallowton,  
24 Headland Avenue,  
Seaford,  
East Sussex.

From Mr W. C. H. Atkin  
Sir, During the recent Test match series between England and West Indies, there were a number of injuries, though no player was prevented from completing a match. However, if a key player had been seriously hurt at the beginning of play and could not continue at

all, the consequences could have been serious for his team. The twelfth man serves a limited purpose and his role could be undertaken by any member of the appropriate ground staff. It is worth considering the introduction of a substitute who would obviously help the team's position when a player is clearly unable to play on. Also, of course, a substitute might be used to replace any player, injured or not.

I am sure the rules would need careful alteration, but substitution might bring a new element into the game of cricket.

I am reminded that we in this country resisted for many years the idea of substitutes in sport, but now it is adopted in our major games. No longer ten men to survive in football, but substitutes ready on the bench to come on to play.

Yours sincerely,  
W. C. H. ATKIN,  
20 Uther Road,  
Gainsborough,  
Lincolnshire.

From Mr L. Ketley  
Sir, I hope ITV will instruct its tape editors to cut out the often deafening and totally unnecessary device of inappropriate music that these days appears to be a vital attachment to every edited sports programme.

What is the point of this cacophony? They don't play it during the actual game - why during a subsequent screening?

Yours faithfully,  
LEN KETLEY,  
9 Norton Road,  
Slapton,  
nr Leighton Buzzard,  
Bedfordshire.

From the Hon. Richard Vivian  
Sir, The Jockey Club may have complained to the BBC about an episode of *Trainer* (Comment, September 20), but has it ever been known to write a thirty letter to Dick Francis? If not, why not?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD VIVIAN,  
Flat 3,  
37 Dafford Road, SW17.

had to stop for a fixed period of time.

Twenty seconds, say, would allow tyre changes to be made properly, with adequate safety checks, and the lack of time-penalty would mean that the race would be won on the track, not in the pits.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW GREEN,  
29 Hogarth Place,  
Abingdon,  
Oxfordshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They should include a daytime telephone number.

## Alliss way off course with Ryder Cup golfing links

By PETER BARNARD

THE most sustainable claim television can make is that from time to time it induces a collective grip in a large number of people that any other medium can reach at any one time. Live news coverage has, in the last few years, achieved this occasionally. Sport does it more often, but in a more transitory way.

Most of us will not be boring the grandchildren with tales of the 1991 Ryder Cup, none the less, on Sunday night television sport gave us one of those occasions when you feel that the hours invested in gazing at the screen paid a big dividend.

Nobody could have written a script to match the reality of the melodrama which brought Bernhard Langer to the 15th green carrying all of Europe's hopes. Peter Alliss said that it was rare to see so many Englishmen rooting for a German, a verbal golf ball which bounced along the edge of the bunker in which lurks Basil Fawley's remark about not mentioning the war. Instead, Alliss mentioned the 1966 World Cup, which in these circumstances, he said, we could forget about.

Given that Alliss must have been the only person in the Western world at that moment for whom a football match 25 years ago and this golf match were in any way connected, I was left wondering for the umpteenth time why it is that even the best commentators seem not to know when discretion is the better part of valour.

And then there was the caddy. Just as Langer was lining up for the win-or-bust putt, the shot from the elevated camera was suddenly found to contain a ruinous ingredient: a caddy blocking the view of the hole. For the NBC producer, this must have loomed as a career-threatening apparition. We were switched to the view

### SPORT ON TELEVISION THE WEEK IN VIEW

from behind Langer, a fortuitous move given that this is far the best position from which to watch a man trying to knock a golf ball into a hole.

Langer, of course, failed. Did I say failed? In these circumstances it was a triumph of the will that he did not feign sudden illness, plead urgent business elsewhere or simply turn himself to stone.

If there was a link worth making between the Ryder Cup coverage and another sporting event, it was not with football but with boxing.

Seven days ago Desmond Lynam introduced *Sportsnight* by expressing concern over the fate of Michael Watson, and saying that television took due regard of its own role in the fight game.

Certainly, hype and the media, especially television, feed off each other, and in the build-up to the Ryder Cup, as has been the case in boxing these many years, the hype was at times positively

distasteful. NBC, from which the BBC took the half pictures, was not least of the culprits, and the ridiculous label, "War on the Shore", had sad echoes of two particular bygone heavyweight contests, the "Thrilla in Manila" and the "Rumble in the Jungle". These fights were, of course, from the Ali era, the same Ali now reduced to a wreck by Parkinson's Disease.

This is hardly a risk in golf, but it was not until the Ryder Cup reached its final stage, the singles matches, that one began to feel confident that the old values still obtained.

Even then we were treated to the sight of golfers whooping it up with clenched fist salutes at every opportunity, and before then, on the Saturday, we saw Payne Stewart encouraging the crowd to applaud a miss.

This was regrettable from anyone and incongruous from a man in plus-fours, but at least sanity was restored when Stewart walked out of his singles defeat to let an interviewer say: "He played better than me, he so deserved to win."

Nick Faldo, though, provided by far the best of the tournament interviews, shortly after his victory on Sunday. Talking to Steve Rider, Faldo gave some real insights into the pressures of team golf, especially when you are playing the opening game of the last day with the team in need of inspiration.

Faldo said he had been awake at 4am with his heart pounding. What did he do about that? Apparently the trick is to walk up and down telling yourself how good you are, and go over your achievements.

Next time you hear a man in the adjacent hotel room talking to himself in the middle of the night, resist the temptation to bang on the wall.

It could be important, even if there isn't a war on.

Alliss: wayward approach

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# Ireland's faltering hopes boosted by Mullin's clearance

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# THE TIMES SPORT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3 1991

The power and presence of New Zealand should ensure a memorable kick-off to the Rugby World Cup at Twickenham today

## England start quest to reach new heights

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SO IT arrives, with royal assent from Prince Edward, a packed house, geographical and commercial squabbles pushed into the background and the climactic grunt which terminates every New Zealand haka. Rugby World Cup 1991 claims the international stage at Twickenham today and moves firmly for the first time into the realms of multi-million pound sport.

The best of the old rugby world will be there at 2pm, when such great players as Colin Meads, Bill Beaumont and Gerald Davies represent their countries in the symbolic march past which forms part of the opening ceremony. The best of the new will follow an hour later when New Zealand meet England to start the defence of the title they won in Auckland in 1987.

It is a match which, potentially, will live up to the old show business adage to leave them wanting more. One or other team, even both, may be back at Twickenham on November 2 to contest the final of a tournament which began in 1988 with the Asian pre-qualifying event and has involved 37 countries.

Since then the composition of the tournament has outgrown anything seen in New Zealand and Australia during the inaugural event: 70 countries are due to receive tele-



Today, *The Times* presents a special 16-page colour supplement with the most authoritative guide to the Rugby World Cup. The players and the moves to watch, a pool-by-pool guide and the television listings for rugby's month of action are all included.

vision signals, eight major sponsors (the final two, Cathay Pacific and British Steel, joining the band within the last month) have provided substantial backing. Now it is up to the players.

Geoff Cooke, England's team manager, wrenched his thoughts away from today's opening match long enough yesterday to reflect on the wider implications: "I hope it will cement rugby as a world game, that more and more people who are not totally committed rugby people will recognise the game for the spectacle it can be."

"I hope they appreciate the nature of the contest that takes place, the fact that it encompasses such a range of skills and physical types. It could do for rugby what

people like Olga Korbut achieved for gymnastics in the 1970s."

The thought of so frail a figure as the great Soviet gymnast is at odds with the physical dynamics of this afternoon's game, which balances the tradition of victory inherent in All-Black rugby against the support England will receive from a Twickenham crowd which helps make a home match like playing in a comfortable armchair.

"This side has not yet got within 20 per cent of what it is capable," Cooke said of his players after they completed light training at Basingstoke, in bright sunshine, compared with the wild and windy weather which is predicted for today. "Hopefully we will come near that tomorrow."

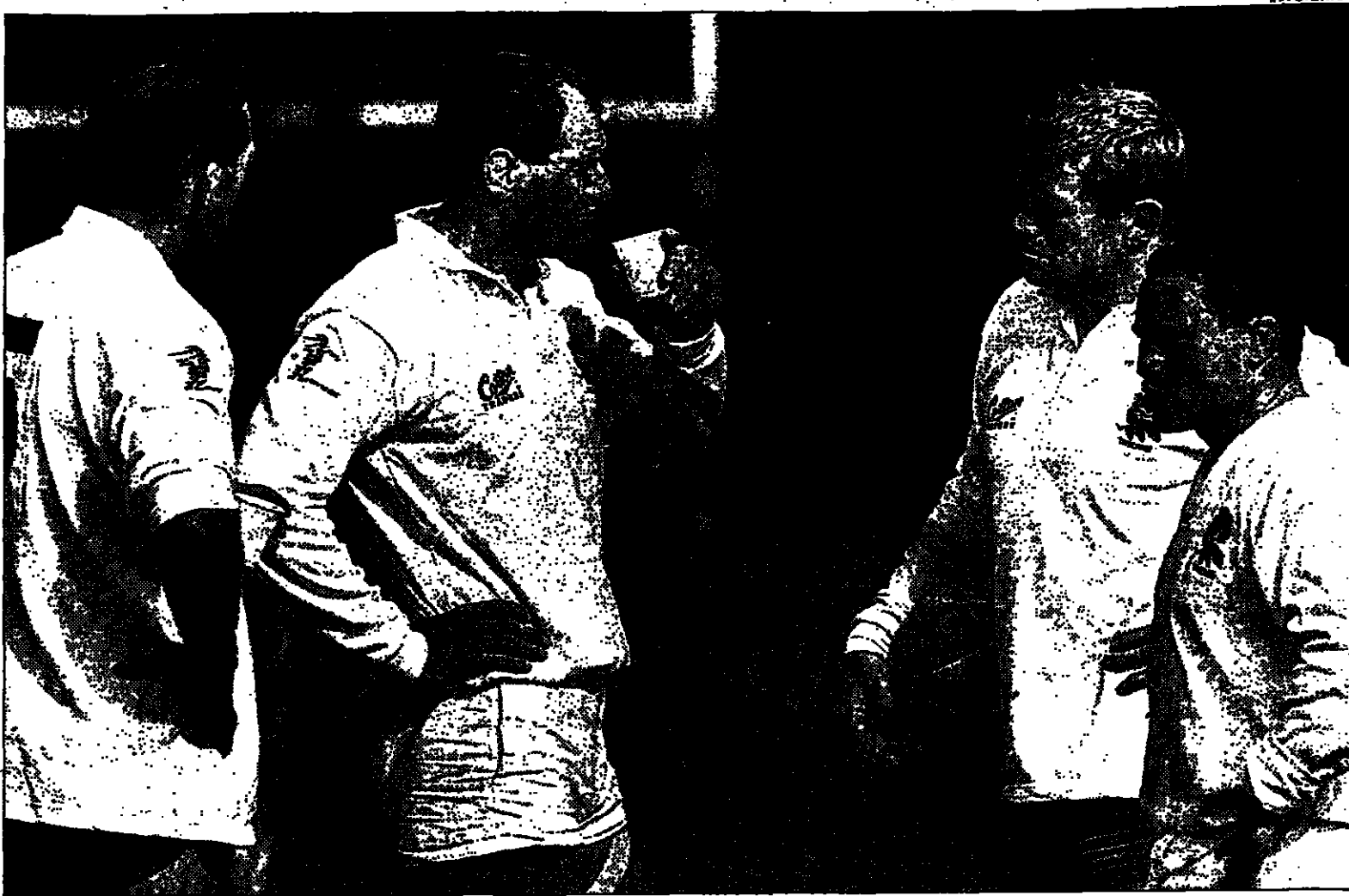
Although they have tried hard to take the broadest view of the tournament, all England's efforts for the last two years have been focused on defeat of New Zealand. The knowledge that victory may make for an easier quarter-final in France is neither here nor there (one brave soul asked the New Zealand management last week whether they would consider "throwing" a pool game so as to avoid a semi-final against Australia).

Throughout a long and distinguished history New Zealand have rarely been caught out in their tactical assessment of their opposition, and their ability to lift the game an extra notch when required. England's capacity to discover that extra gear is the main stumbling block to a prediction of a home victory; if they can control the pace of the game and are prepared to unleash their midfield, they have the capacity to win.

That control rests firmly on the shoulders of the forwards. They must hold what, before this summer, has worn the mantle of one of the best front rows in the world and they must dominate the youthful Ian Jones and the experienced Gary Whetton at the lineout.

The other area where England will hope to impose themselves is scrum half, where they will try to thrify the life out of Graeme Bachop before he can link with Grant Fox — whose ability to place the ball, where he wants is legendary. Fox, though, is not familiar with Twickenham, particularly on a windy day when it may be better to keep the ball in hand and drive it forward. Control is the key and there New Zealand's potential looks the greater.

Survival of fittest, page 34  
Ireland lifted, page 34



Pause for thought: the England players, from left, Dooley, Ackford, Richards and Moore, are deep in conversation at Basingstoke yesterday

## Rugby to share £20m windfall

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Rugby World Cup is set to make a profit of more than £20 million, making it the most financially successful sports event staged in Britain.

The surplus, which will largely be used to ensure the staging of future World Cups and to develop the game throughout the world, will come principally from gate receipts, television fees, sponsorship and merchandising.

It will dwarf the figure for the first World Cup, in New Zealand and Australia in 1987, when the profit was only about £120,000 from gross income of £3 million.

This time the income could reach £39 million, with outgoings of between £12 and £15 million.

Alan Callan, managing director of CPMA Group, the commercial advisers to Rugby World Cup Ltd, said: "Our original agreement was to get

the best possible balance between income and exposure. It was to secure the future of the competition and bring the game into new parts of the globe."

"We were asked to secure a surplus in excess of £20 million, partly to make sure that countries like Ivory Coast, Argentina and Western Samoa do not have to worry about

participating in the qualification rounds for 1995, when more countries will be taking part."

Callan said that CPMA had "met all the targets that Rugby World Cup has asked us to meet", despite a recession which has hampered sponsorship and advertising. He said: "I believe that, on the Monday after the competition, there

will be a lot of chairmen and managing directors who will be asking themselves, 'Why weren't we part of that event?'"

The competition has also suffered from a shortfall in expected television revenue because of the lack of interest in many countries. Only the British Isles, France, New Zealand and Japan are paying more than £1 million in fees even Australia is only contributing £300,000 for broadcasting rights. This compares with the Olympics, when one of the US networks alone paid more than £200 million.

However, the organisers have seen the tournament as an opportunity to increase the world-wide popularity of the game; they have taken low or even no fees to ensure viewers are introduced to the sport.

The matches are expected to be shown in about 65 countries, which is pleasing news for the major sponsors.

HERE is a breakdown of the projected £39 million income from the tournament:

Television: About £12 million. ITV has paid about £3 million and is also providing 24 million in ancillary services. In France, TF1 and Canal Plus are paying about £3 million.

Gate receipts: If all the games are sold out, 12 million people will have paid a total of £16 million. Seats range from £10 for fixtures in provincial stadiums to £20 for the final.

Sponsors and suppliers: A total of £10 million. The six leading sponsors, Heinz, F&N, Famous Grouse, Société Générale, Sony and Glass South Africa, have paid out about £4.5 million between them.

Hospitality packages, merchandising and programmes: About £23 million. This includes sales of souvenirs and programmes, alone likely to bring in £500,000.

National bodies: The five host nations will have paid out about £5 million in administrative costs for staging the tournament, including food, accommodation and travel for 25 players and six officials for each team. However, in return, they will receive the balance in the gate receipts.

International Rugby Settlement: The expenditure is estimated at between £12 and £15 million. It includes flights to Europe of the competing nations, the building of the media centres at a cost of £3 million, and daily allowances for the players.

Today  
POOL ONE: England v New Zealand (at Twickenham, 3pm)

Tomorrow  
POOL THREE: Australia v Argentina (at Llanelli, 3pm)

POOL FOUR: France v Romania (at Béziers, 8pm)

TELEVISION: Today: ITV 13.50-18.45 and Screensport 14.00-18.30, 18.30-20.00 and 21.30-22.30. Opening ceremony followed by England v New Zealand (from Twickenham). Tomorrow: ITV 14.20-18.40 and Screensport 14.45-18.40. Australia v Argentina (from Llanelli). ITV 19.55-22.00 and Screensport 19.45-21.30. France v Romania (from Béziers). Other highlights: Screensport 10.00-11.00 and 21.30-22.30.

BETTING (Corse): Australia and New Zealand, 6-4; England, 6-1; France, 7-1; Scotland, 10-1; Ireland, 50-1; Fiji, 100-1; Wales, 150-1; Argentina, Canada and Romania, 500-1; Italy and Zimbabwe, 1,000-1; Japan and United States, 5,000-1.

Villa put England at 9-4 to beat New Zealand today. Both Corals and Hills make New Zealand's John Kirwan the favourite, at 6-1, to score the first try of the tournament, with England's Rory Underwood at 8-1.

WEATHER: Southeast England will be cloudy in places, with patchy, mostly light rain. Gradually clearing to bright or sunny periods with scattered showers.

TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM			
England		New Zealand	
J M Webb	15	Full back	T J Wright (Auckland)
R Underwood	14	Right wing	J J Kirwan (Auckland)
W D C Carling	13	Right centre	C R Innes (Auckland)
J C Guscott	12	Left centre	B J McCahill (Auckland)
C Ott	11	Left wing	J K R Timu (Dunedin)
C R Andrew	10	Stand-off	G J Fox (Auckland)
R J Hill	9	Scrum half	G T M Bachop (Canterbury)
J Leonard	1	Prop	S C McDowell (Auckland)
B C Moore	2	Hooker	S B T Fitzpatrick (Auckland)
J A Probyn	3	Prop	R W Loe (Waikato)
M C Teague	6	Flanker	A J Whetton (Auckland)
P J Ackford	4	Lock	I D Jones (North Auckland)
W A Dooley	5	Lock	G W Whetton* (Auckland)
P J Winterbottom	7	Flanker	M N Jones (Auckland)
D Richards	8	No. 8	Z V Brooke (Auckland)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 S J Halliday (Hartlepool), 17 D Pears (Hartlepool), 18 C D Morris (Oxford), 19 P A G Rendall (Aldershot), 20 G J Oliver (Northampton), 21 M Skinner (Hartlepool).  
REPLACEMENTS: 16 S Philpott (Canterbury), 17 W K Little (North Harbour), 18 J P Prieson (Canterbury), 19 A T Earl (Canterbury), 20 G H Purvis (Waikato), 21 G W Dowd (North Harbour).

Referee: J M Fleming (Scotland)

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